

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1672 GUNNER

O. F. RICHARDSON

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

12TH JUNE, 1917 Age 23

Our Dear Ormie

Still Living, Still Loving

Still Ours - Parents

Ormond Francis RICHARDSON

Ormond Francis Richardson was born at Leopold, Victoria in 1893 to parents John & Rosa Louisa Richardson (nee Lander). His birth was registered in the district of Kensington Hill, Victoria. (Note: Information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour recorded Ormond was born at Leopold, however his Attestation Papers recorded he was born in the parish of Bellerine, near the town of Geelong.)

Ormond Francis Richardson was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Marcus, via Geelong, Victoria when he enlisted on 18th October, 1915 at Geelong, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Richardson, of Marcus, via Geelong, Victoria.

Private Ormond Francis Richardson was posted to "C" Company at Geelong on 26th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to Light Horse Reserve Reinforcements from 11th November, 1915 then on 19th November, he was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 4th Light Horse Regiment.

Private Ormond Francis Richardson, Service number 1672, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic* (A40) on 23rd November, 1915 with the 4th Light Horse Regiment, 12th Reinforcements.

Private Ormond Francis Richardson was admitted to No. 1 Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 29th December, 1916 with Tonsillitis. He was discharged to duty on 17th January, 1916.

Private Ormond Francis Richardson was transferred to 2nd Divisional Ammunition Column at Zeitoun on 11th March, 1916.

Private Ormond Francis Richardson was appointed Acting Driver while posted at Zeitoun on 19th March, 1916.

Acting Driver Ormond Francis Richardson embarked from Alexandria on 20th March, 1916 & proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916.

Acting Driver Ormond Francis Richardson was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 14th May, 1916 with Gonorrhoea. He was transferred to Divisional Rest Station on 17th May, 1916. Acting Driver Richardson was transferred & admitted to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 8th June, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to No. 9 Stationary Hospital at Havre, France on 11th June, 1916 then on 30th June, 1916 he was transferred & admitted to No. 18 General Hospital at Camiers, France. Acting Driver Richardson was discharged to Base Depot on 12th July, 1916 (Absent from Duty 60 days - VD).

Acting Driver Ormond Francis Richardson was re-admitted to No. 18 General Hospital at Camiers on 31st July, 1916 with V.D.G. from 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot). He was discharged to Base Depot on 3rd September, 1916 (Absent from Duty 35 days - VD). Acting Driver Richardson was transferred to A.G.B. Depot at Etaples, France on 28th September, 1916. He rejoined 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) in the Field on 2nd November, 1916 as Gunner.

2nd Divisional Ammunition Column

In post-19th Century conventional warfare, artillery is a dominant component of military combat power. The nature, range and effect of artillery fire dominated the battlefields of the Western Front in particular on a scale that has rarely been rivalled since.

To sustain this effect, the logistics of supply of ammunition are critical. The weight and volume of artillery ammunition meant that keeping ammunition up to the guns at the rates required was an all-encompassing supply chain issue from manufacture through storage, distribution and provision to disposal of unexploded ordnance and recovery of re-useable components.

Each Division had an Ammunition Column to keep ammunition up to the guns by moving it from "Third line" storage up to the Front ("First Line"). It was a mammoth task involving motor and horse drawn transport, heavy and light rail and tramways. Ammunition dumps and transport near the Front Line were high priority targets of the enemy's guns, and later, aircraft.

Horse drawn transport laden with ammunition is a doubly risky business. Horses are vulnerable to all forms of small arms and artillery and the cargo is such that a hit is generally catastrophic. It is not for nothing that many drivers received bravery awards.

(Information & photo from VWMA)



Gunner Ormond Francis Richardson reported sick on 13th March, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 13th March, 1917 with P.U.O. (pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) then transferred & admitted to 2nd Australian Divisional Rest Station on 14th March, 1917. Gunner Richardson was transferred & admitted to 1/1 S.M. Casualty Clearing Station on 16th March, 1917 then transferred to No. 11 Ambulance Train on 19th March, 1917. He was admitted to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 20th March, 1917. Gunner Richardson embarked for England on 19th April, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. George* with Tubercular Peritonitis Phthisis.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Richardson, Marcus, via Geelong, Victoria, on 9th April, 1917 to advise that Gunner Ormond Richardson had been admitted to Hospital on 29th March with suspected Tubercular Peritonitis & his condition was dangerous. Mr J. Richardson was advised by Base Records on 26th April, 1917 that Gunner Ormond Richardson was pronounced out of danger.

Gunner Ormond Francis Richardson was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 20th April, 1917.

Mr J. Richardson, Marcus, via Geelong, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 1st May, 1917 that No. 1672 Gunner O. F. Richardson, 2nd Divisional Ammunition Column had been removed from the seriously ill list. Mr Richardson was advised on 5th May, 1917 that Gunner O. F. Richardson had been transferred to 3rd London General Hospital on 20th April, 1917.

Base Records advised Mr Richardson on 5th June, 1917 that Gunner Ormond Richardson was again dangerously ill.

Gunner Ormond Francis Richardson died at 5.10 am on 12th June, 1917 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from Tubercular Peritonitis.

A death for Ormond F. Richardson, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Wandsworth, Surrey/London, England.

Gunner Ormond Francis Richardson was buried at 1.30 pm on 15th June, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179413

From the burial report of Gunner Ormond Francis Richardson - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military honours, Firing party furnished by the South African Regt were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by a member of the A.I.F. The coffin was shrouded with the Australian flag. The coffin was borne to the graveside by members attached to the Administrative Headquarters Staff, A.I.F. Chaplain Bradbury of the A.I.F. officiated at the graveside. No relatives were present at the funeral. Temporary oak cross to be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Richardson, Ocean Grove, Victoria on 3rd April, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave – the late No. 1672, Gunner O. F. Richardson, 2nd Div. Ammunition Column, in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row D Grave 17.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. D. 17. Gunner Ormond Francis Richardson now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Gunner Ormond Francis Richardson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Richardson's father – Mr J. Richardson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ormond Francis Richardson – service number 1672, aged 23, of 2nd Div. Ammunition Col., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of John & Rosa Richardson, of Ocean Grove, Victoria, Australia.

Gunner O. F. Richardson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

OR. Richardson is remembered on the Leopold State School Honour Roll, located in Leopold Primary School, 16 Kensington Road, Leopold, Victoria.



Leopold State School Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

O. Richardson is remembered on the Leopold & District Residents Honor Roll, located in Leopold Community Hall, 805 Bellarine Highway, Leopold, Victoria.



Leopold & District Residents Honor Roll (Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

O. F. Richardson is remembered on the Mannerim State School & District Roll of Honor, located in Marcus Hill Community Hall, 662 – 670 Banks Rd, Marcus Hill, Victoria.



Mannerim State School & District Roll of Honor (Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

O. Richardson is remembered on the Marcus & Mannerim Roll of Honor, located in Marcus Hill Community Hall, 662 – 670 Banks Rd, Marcus Hill, Victoria.

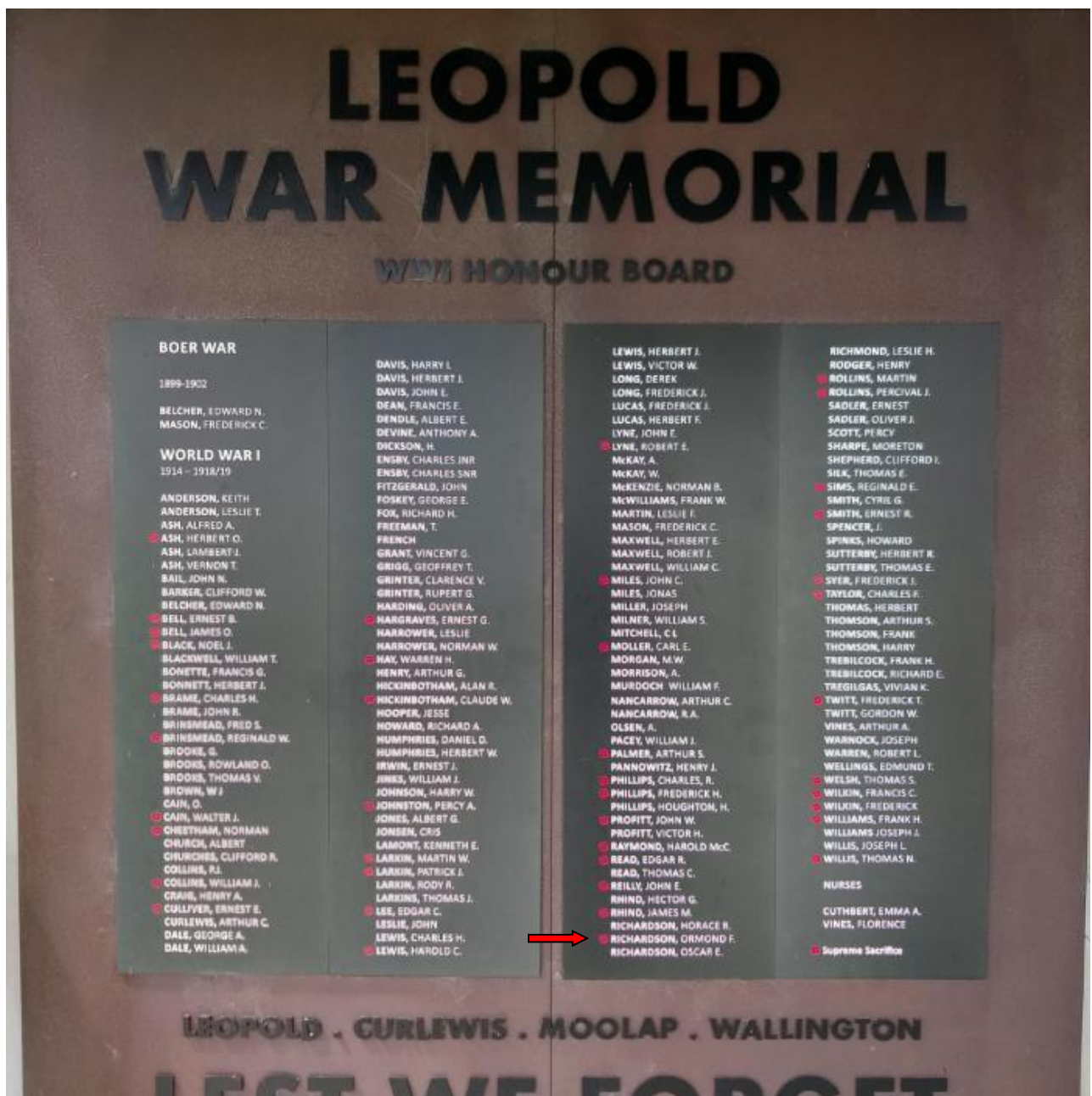


Marcus & Mannerim Roll of Honor (Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

Ormond F. Richardson is remembered on the Leopold, Curlewis, Moolap & Wallington WW1 Honour Board located at the Leopold War Memorial, located in Leopold Memorial Park, Melaleuka Road & Stringers Lane, Leopold, Victoria.



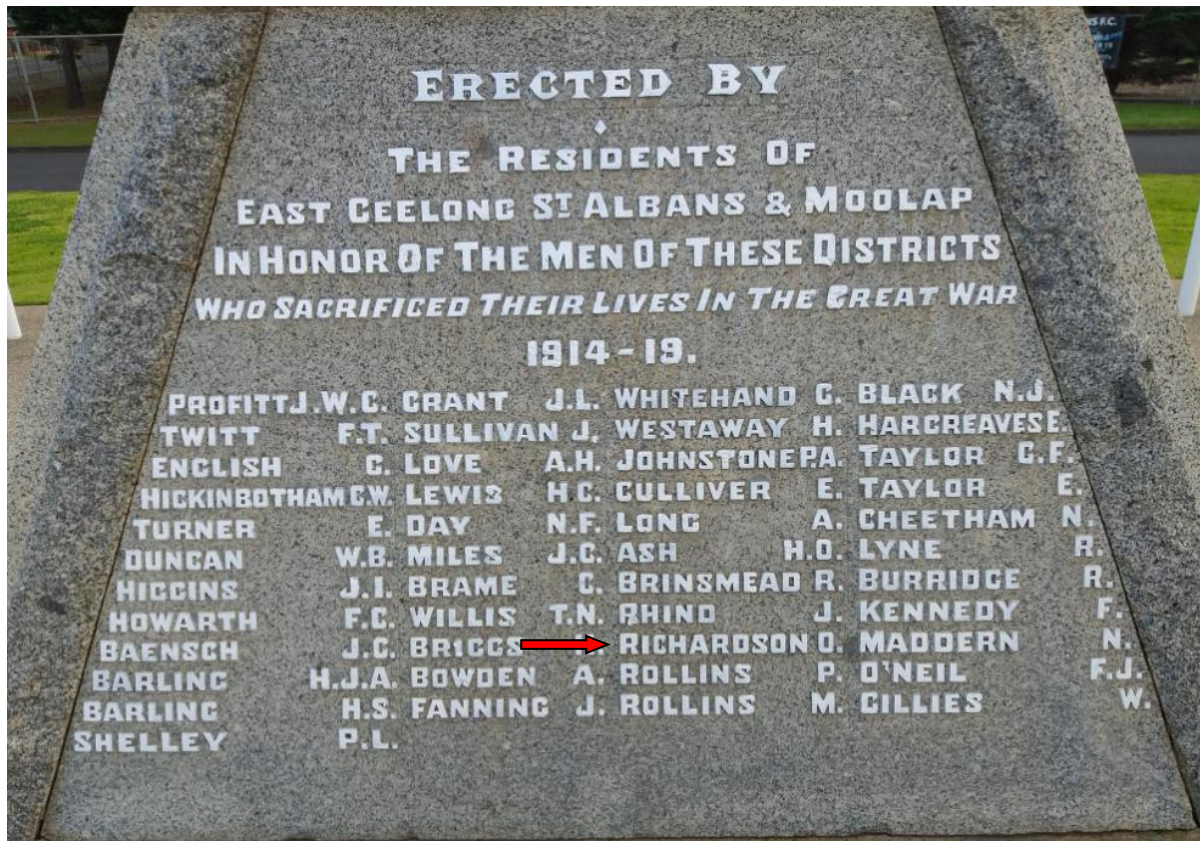
Leopold War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



O. Richardson is remembered on the East Geelong, St. Albans & Moolap War Memorial, located in St. Albans Park, Townsend Road, St. Albans, Victoria.



East Geelong, St. Albans & Moolap War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



O. F. Richardson is remembered on the Bellarine Shire Council Roll of Honour, located in Drysdale RSL, 13 Princess Street, Drysdale, Victoria.



Bellarine Shire Council Roll of Honour (Photo from Geelong Honours Them)

O. Richardson is remembered on the Bellarine Shire & Queenscliff Borough Roll of Honor, located in Queenscliff Historical Museum, 49 Hesse Street, Queenscliff, Victoria.



Bellarine Shire & Queenscliff Borough Roll of Honor (Photo from *Geelong Honours Them*)

(48 pages of Gunner Ormond Francis Richardson'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

NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

FALLEN, WOUNDED, MISSING BULLETINS

Mrs J. Richardson, of Ocean Grove, has been told by Base Records that her son, Driver O. F. Richardson, is reported out of danger after being ill in hospital.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 8 May, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

316th CASUALTY LIST

DIED FROM ILLNESS

Gnr O. F. RICHARDSON, Marcus, 12/6/17

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 28 June, 1917)

DEATHS

RICHARDSON – Died of illness on 12th June in 3rd London Military Hospital, after 18 months' active service, Gunner Ormond Francis, dearly loved second youngest son of John and Rosa Richardson, Ocean Grove, aged 23 years and 9 months.

Not lost, but gone before,

Loved by all who knew him.

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 29 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARDSON – In sad and loving memory of our dear son, No. 1672, Gnr Ormond Francis Richardson, who died of illness in England on 12th June, 1917; aged 23 years and 9 months.

Sweet be thy rest and peaceful they sleeping,

God's way is best, Thou art in His keeping;

Sadly we miss you, dear, but try not to grieve

Just a little while longer and we too must leave.

Deeply mourned

-Inserted by his loving father and mother, Ocean Grove)

(Melbourne Papers please copy)

RICHARDSON – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, No. 1672, Gnr Ormond Francis Richardson, who died of illness in England on 12th June, 1917; aged 23 years and 9 months.

One of the best,

A Soldier and a Man.

-Inserted by his loving brothers, Horace, Oscar, Arthur and Ern

(Melbourne Papers please copy)

RICHARDSON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Gunner Ormond F. Richardson, who died of illness in 3rd London General Hospital on 12th June, 1917, after 1 year and 9 months' service.

He has sailed on his last commission,

In a beautiful ship called "Rest,"

Now his head is safely pillowed

On the Great Commander's breast.

Always remembered.

-Inserted by his loving sisters, Evelyn, Olive, Doris and Gladys.

RICHARDSON – In loving memory of my dear friend, Ormy, who died of illness at the 3rd General Hospital, London, on the 12th of June, 1917.

In peace a dear and honorable friend – In War a Hero – At all Times a Man,

In a soldier's grave he is sleeping,

One of God's noblest and best;

In my heart I shall miss him for ever,

Though I only know he is at rest.

-Inserted by his sorrowing friend, Mona.

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria – 12 June, 1918)

**Newspaper Notices were also placed in 1919 , 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1926

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 O. F. Richardson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Our Dear Ormie

Still Living, Still Loving

Still Ours - Parents

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.

Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Gunner O. F. Richardson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

