

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



5031 PRIVATE

A. SYMONDS

19TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 25

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. Symonds is located in Grave Plot # 254
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Arthur SYMONDS

Arthur Symonds was born at Parramatta, Sydney, New South Wales to parents Arthur & Elizabeth Symonds (nee Carney). His birth was registered in 1892.

Arthur Symonds was a 24 year old, single, Tailor from Marsden Street, Parramatta, NSW when he enlisted on 24th January, 1916 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5031 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father - Mr A. Symonds – Marsden Street, Parramatta, NSW.

Pte Arthur Symonds embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ajana* (A31) on 5th July, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 31st August, 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.

Pte Arthur Symonds was taken on strength by 5th Training Battalion from Australia in England on 1st September, 1916. (area not stated).

Pte Arthur Symonds proceeded overseas for France on 21st October, 1916 & was marched in at Etaples on 23rd October, 1916.

Pte Arthur Symonds was marched out to his Unit at Etaples on 14th November, 1916 & was taken on strength from 13th Reinforcements on 17th November, 1916.

Pte Arthur Symonds was admitted to Hospital on 29th December, 1916 & embarked on H.S. (Hospital Ship) *St. Andrew* from Rouen, France for England on 11th January, 1917 as he was suffering Trench Feet & Frost Bitten Hand.

Pte Arthur Symonds was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth on 13th January, 1917 & then transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 23rd February, 1917.

Pte Arthur Symonds was transferred to No. 2 Command Depot Hospital at Weymouth from Dartfield, England on 8th March, 1917 – still suffering Trench feet (almost well) but still suffering with his left hand & fingers.

Pte Arthur Symonds was admitted to Military Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire from 20th June, 1917 & discharged to Convalescent Training Depot, Bulford on 5th July, 1917.

Pte Arthur Symonds as marched in to 5th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 8th August, 1917.

Pte Arthur Symonds was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 11th August, 1917 with Debility.

Private Arthur Symonds died at 5 a.m. on 2nd September, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Acute Rheumatism.

A death for Arthur Symonds, aged 27, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Symonds was buried on 5th September, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 254 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Arthur Symonds - *Coffin was Oak with brass fittings. Lieut. Percy D. Jones wrote the following remarks:*

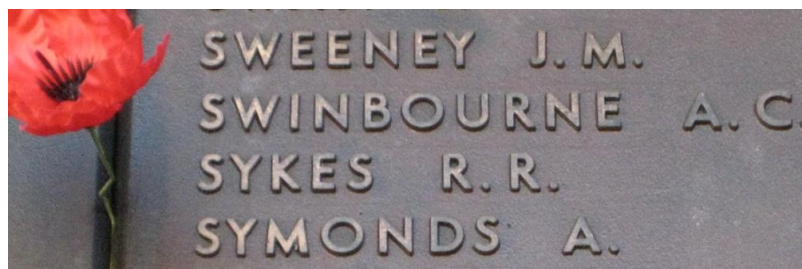
Pte Symonds was in my Company in France and it is with deepest sympathy I make these few remarks as he always proved to be such a good living and conscientious lad, and his loss to the Regiment will be felt very keenly by those who knew him. On Friday last I visited him in the Hospital and on asking him if he was quite comfortable he replied that he was and appeared to be quite bright. The funeral was carried out with full Military Honours, the mourners being 20 men from his Company.

Pte Arthur Symonds requested in his Will dated 6th August, 1917 that all his personal estate he bequeathed to his sister Miss L. Symonds of Marsden St, Parramatta.

Pte Arthur Symonds was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Symonds' father – Mr A. Symonds (sent May, 1922 & September, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Symonds – service number 5031 as being 25 years old & served with 19th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Arthur and Elizabeth Ann Symonds of Marsden St, Parramatta, New South Wales.

Private A. Symonds is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 90.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Symonds is also remembered on the Parramatta War Memorial located at Prince Alfred Park, Church St & Victoria Rd, Parramatta.



Parramatta War Memorial (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Peter Levarre-Waters & Vaughn Williamson)

A. Symonds is also remembered on the Parramatta and District Great War Roll of Honour located in the Parramatta Town Hall, Church Street, Parramatta.



Parramatta & District Great War Roll of Honour (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW –David Roden)

(52 pages of Pte Arthur Symonds' 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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P08624.115

Pte Arthur Symonds

Newspaper Reports

CASUALTIES – 272ND LIST ISSUED

NEW SOUTH WALES – ILL

Pte A. Symonds, Parramatta

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Thursday 15 February, 1917)

PARRAMATTA BOY'S DEATH

Last week Mr A. Symonds, Marsden Street, Parramatta, late of "The Argus" office, received intimation from the military authorities that his son, Private Arthur Symonds, was an inmate of Fargo Military Hospital, England, suffering from severe acute rheumatism. On Thursday evening the Rev. T. B. Holmes announced to the family, at the request of Colonel Sandford, that the young soldier had passed away.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – Saturday 8 September, 1917)

BRAVE BOYS WHO HAVE DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY

PRIVATE A. SYMONDS – aged 25 years, died of acute rheumatism on September 2 at Fargo Military Hospital, England. He was the only son of Mr A. Symonds, Marsden Street, Parramatta. He left Sydney on active service on July 5, 1916 and entered the trenches in France on October, 1916, and stayed there until 13th February, when he was taken to England with trench feet and frost-bitten left hand, and was in hospital five months.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – Saturday 29 September, 1917)



RETURN THANKS

Mr A. Symonds and Family, of Marsden Street, Parramatta, desire to express their sincere thanks to all kind friends for letters, cards and personal expressions of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – Saturday 6 October, 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)

Pte A. Symonds does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



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

Photo of Pte A. Symonds' Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)