

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**6810 PRIVATE**

**A. S. PEARCE**

**3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**20TH FEBRUARY, 1917**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. S. Pearce is located in Grave Plot # 208  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Arthur Stuart PEARCE

Arthur Stuart Pearce was born in Adelaide, South Australia to parents Stuart John & Mabel Eustace Pearce (nee Thwaites). His birth was registered in 1899 in Adelaide. Arthur Stuart Pearce was an 18 year old, single, Clerk from Darling Point when he enlisted on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6810 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. E. Pearce of 9 Mona Road, Darling Point, Sydney, NSW (father deceased). Arthur Pearce had served for 4 years (still serving) with Cadets.

Pte Arthur Stuart Pearce embarked from Sydney on *SS Port Nicholson* on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

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 Stuart Pearce was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 2nd February, 1917 seriously ill with Bronchitis. Pte Pearce's mother was informed in writing of his illness.

Private Arthur Stuart Pearce died at 4.45 p.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Bronchitis.

A death for Arthur S. Pearce, aged 18, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Stuart Pearce was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 208 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private A. S. Pearce is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 37.

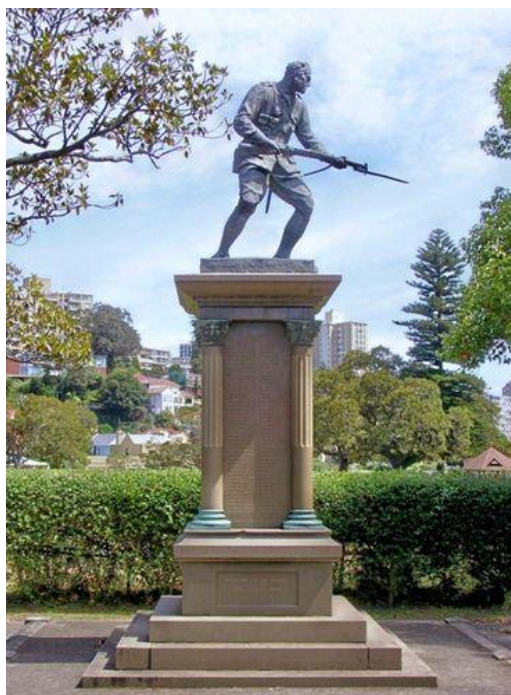


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte A. S. Pearce is also remembered on the Double Bay War Memorial, NSW located at Steyne Park, William Street, Double Bay, NSW.



*Double Bay War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)*

Pte Arthur Stuart Pearce 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 Pearce's mother – Mrs M. E. Pearce (October, 1922 & September, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Stuart Pearce – service number 6810 as being 18 years old & served with 3rd Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Mabel E. Pearce, mother of late Pte Arthur Stuart Pearce, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1917. A War Pension was also granted to Hector Stuart Pearce, brother of late Pte Arthur Stuart Pearce, in the sum of 10/- per fortnight from 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1917

(48 pages of Pte Arthur Stuart Pearce'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*

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## Newspaper Reports

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – 277<sup>th</sup> LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES – Died of Illness

A. S. Pearce, Darling Point, 20/2/17 (Prev. rep. ser. ill)

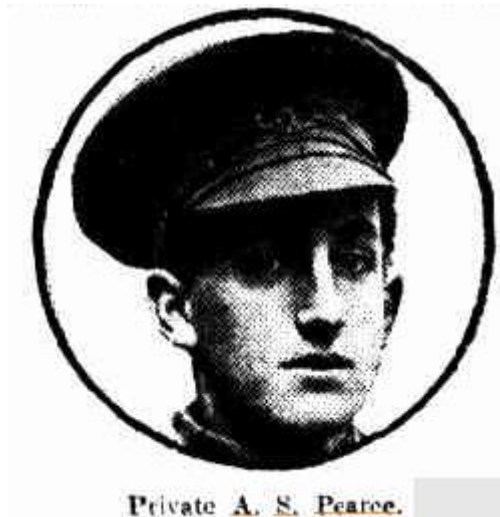
*(The Queenslander, Brisbane – Saturday 17 March, 1917)*

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## BIOGRAPHICAL

THE LATE PRIVATE A. S. PEARCE

News has been received of the death of Private Arthur Stuart Pearce, in Fargo Hospital, London, of pneumonia, on February 20. He was the eldest son of the late Stuart Pearce, and Mrs Pearce, of Sydney. He was born in Hanson-street, Adelaide, where he lived until ten years ago, when he left with his parents for Sydney. Later he entered the service of Dalgety & Co. He enlisted in August last, at the time being barely 17 years of age. He was a grandson of Mrs P. Johnson, of College-road, Kent Town, and a cousin to Miss Vera Pearce, the vaudeville artist.



(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – Saturday 2 June, 1917)

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#### 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, to Mrs M. E. Pearce (mother) advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte A. S. Pearce had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

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

Photo of Pte A. S. Pearce's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)