

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



180 PRIVATE

**C. R. G. MEDHURST**

42ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 19

*God Has Them Safely*

*In His Keeping*

*Just On The Other Side*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte C. R. G. Medhurst is located in Grave Plot # 123  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Clarence Roland Gawn MEDHURST

Clarence Roland Gawn Medhurst was born at Mountain View, Queensland on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1897. His birth was registered in Queensland in 1898 to parents Rohan Roland Medhurst & Nancy Agnes Medhurst (nee Brown). He was an 18 year old, single Sawmiller from South Killarney, Queensland when he enlisted on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1915 with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion "A" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 180 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Nancy Medhurst of Spring Creek, Killarney, Queensland.

Pte Clarence Medhurst, after 14 weeks of service, was absent without leave from Camp from 6 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> March – 6 a.m. 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 – a period of 3 days. He was punished with 7 days Confined to Barracks as well as 3 days' pay forfeiture.

Pte Clarence Medhurst, after 21 weeks of service, was absent without leave from Camp from 6 a.m. 17<sup>th</sup> April – 6 a.m. 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 – a period of 10 days. He was punished with 7 days Confined to Barracks as well as 7 days' pay forfeiture.

Pte Clarence Medhurst embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Borda (A30)* on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 & disembarked at Suez, Egypt.

Pte Clarence Medhurst was admitted to Hospital on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 at Tel el Kebir. He was transferred to Hospital at Abbassia.

Pte Medhurst was marched in and taken on strength at Moascar on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Private Clarence Medhurst was charged with neglecting to obey an Order on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. He was forfeited 1 days' pay.

Pte Medhurst embarked from Alexandria aboard *Megantic* on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 for England.

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 Medhurst was marched in from Egypt to Larkhill, Wiltshire, England on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1916.

Private Clarence Medhurst was sent to 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade Hospital on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1916. He was transferred to Isolation Hospital at Tidworth on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1916 & reported dangerously ill with Meningitis on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1916. Pte Medhurst's family were advised of his condition by Base Records, dated 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Private Clarence Medhurst died on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 at O.C. Isolation Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire from Cerebral Spinal Meningitis.

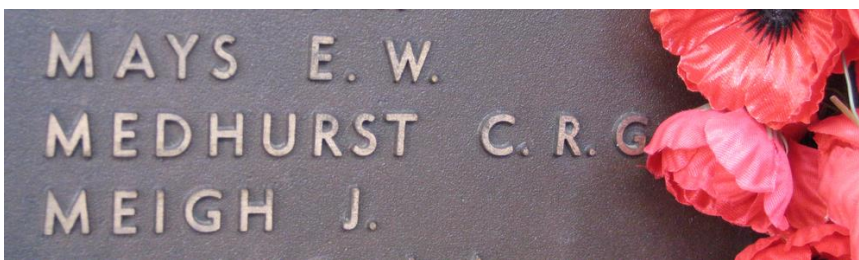
A death for Clarence Medhurst, aged 19, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Private Clarence Medhurst was buried on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 123 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte Clarence Medhurst 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 Medhurst's father – Mr R. R. Medhurst even though Mrs Nancy Medhurst was noted as next-of-kin. (Both sent April, 1923). Instructions under the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" for the disposal of War Medals etc - the order was fathers received Medals before being given to the mother.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Clarence Roland Gawn Medhurst – service number 180 as being 19 years old & served with 42nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Roland Medhurst & Nancy Agnes Medhurst of Spring Creek, Killarney, South Queensland.

Private C. R. G. Medhurst is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 135.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

C. Medhurst, along with his brother H. Medhurst, are both remembered on the Killarney War Memorial located at Oleander & Ivy Streets, Killarney, Queensland.



### Killarney War Memorial

*(Queensland War Memorial Register -Photos by Shirley & Trevor McIvor(left) & Dennis Stocks (right))*

(47 pages of Pte Clarence Medhurst'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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[Connected to Pte Clarence Roland Gawn Medhurst:](#)

Older brother – Pte Herbert John Medhurst, 3587, 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion . Killed in Action 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1917, aged 24. Remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate), Belgium.

## Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – LIST NO. 246

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private C. Medhurst (Killarney)

*(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – Wednesday 6 December, 1916)*

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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)*

Pte C. R. G. Medhurst does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*God Has Them Safely In His Keeping Just On The Other Side*

Photo of Pte C. R. G. Medhurst's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)