

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**3354 PRIVATE**

**D. COLLINS**

**5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS**

**15TH MARCH, 1917 Age 33**

*Thy Will Be Done*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte D. Collins is located in Grave Plot # 222  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Douglas COLLINS

Arthur Douglas Collins was born in 1882 at Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England to parents Henry & Caroline Collins nee Boell). His birth was registered in June quarter 1882 in the district of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England

Henry & Caroline Collins & their 5 children arrived in Western Australia aboard the *Chollerton* on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1887. Arthur Douglas was aged 5 years.

(Arthur)Douglas Collins was a 33 year old, single, Nurseryman from Ferndale, Burswood, Western Australia when he enlisted on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 with the 5<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3354 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Henry Collins of Ferndale, Burswood, Western Australia. In his Attestation Papers, Douglas Collins had stated that he had previously been rejected for Service.

Pte Douglas Collins embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Berrima (A35)* on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 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 Douglas Collins was marched in to Training Battalion at Larkhill Camp, Wiltshire on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 from Australia.

Pte Douglas Collins was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 from Larkhill Camp – seriously ill with bronchitis.

Pte Douglas Collins died of broncho-pneumonia at 8.15 a.m. on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital.

From the Red Cross Wounded & Missing File on Pte Douglas Collins – a letter written by The Matron of Fargo Hospital, Salisbury Plain, dated 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1917:

*“Died Bronchitis” – He was admitted to hospital 13.3.17 and died 15.3.17. He was buried 17.3.17 in Durrington Cemetery grave number 222 on right hand side of path. He was desperately ill when sent in from the camp – every care and attention was given but with no avail. The Winter has been very severe and the Australian troops have suffered terribly. The sister of the Ward always writes to the relatives if possible so I hope by now they would have heard from her.*

A death for Douglas Collins, aged 35, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Douglas Collins was buried in Durrington Cemetery on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 – plot number 222 He was given a funeral with full military honours, with a Band, Firing Party, mourners & a Bugler.

Private D. Collins is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

Pte Douglas Collins was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Collins' next-of-kin – his eldest brother (as parents were deceased – Henry Collins died 1921 & Caroline Collins died 1922) Mr Herbert W. Collins – (August, 1922 & October, 1923)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Douglas Collins – service number 3354 as being 33 years old & served with 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Henry and Caroline Collins of “Ferndale”, Burswood, Western Australia.

(44 pages of Pte Douglas Collins' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*

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## Newspaper Reports

### **ILL**

D. Collins, Burswood, seriously.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia Thursday 29 March, 1917)*

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### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

PRIVATE D. COLLINS, Burswood, previously reported seriously ill.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia 5 April, 1917)*

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### **BEREAVEMENT NOTICE**

Mr and Mrs Collins and family, of Ferndale, Burswood, desire to THANK all kind friends for letters, cards and personal visits of sympathy during their recent sad bereavement of their dear son and brother, Private Douglas Collins, passed away at Fargo Hospital, England, on March 15.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia Monday 9 April, 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)*

Pte D. Collins does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Thy Will Be Done*

Photo of Pte D. Collins' Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



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