

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6205 PRIVATE

H. H. SEEFELDT

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 21

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. H. Seefeldt is located in Grave Plot # 188
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Herbert Hector SEEFELDT

Herbert Hector Seefeldt was born at Woongarra, Bundaberg, Queensland in 1895 to parents Julius Edward William & Rebecca Seefeldt (nee Barlow). He was a 20 year old, single, Labourer from Victoria Street, Bundaberg, Queensland when he enlisted on 11th April, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6205 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Julius Seefeldt of Victoria Street, Bundaberg, Queensland

Pte Herbert Hector Seefeldt embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 27th October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th 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.

Private Herbert Hector Seefeldt was marched in to 7th Training Battalion, Rollestone, Wiltshire on 9th January, 1917.

Private Herbert Hector Seefeldt was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 6th February, 1917 with Influenza. He was admitted & was reported seriously ill with Pneumonia on 7th February, 1917.

Private Herbert Hector Seefeldt died on 8th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital from Pneumonia. Pte Herbert Seefeldt was one of six soldiers to die in a period of 24 hours - all related to pneumonia, influenza & bronchitis.

(Pte Thomas Dunn 2323; died 4.00 p.m. 7th February, 1917 / Pte William Razez Robinson 2388; died 4.30 p.m. / Charles Young 6842; died 6.50 p.m. 7th February, 1917 / Thomas Joseph Desmond 2300; died 7 p.m. 7th February, 1917 / Henry Walter Sharp 6180; died 4.20 a.m. 8th February, 1917 & Herbert Hector Seefeldt 6215; died 11 a.m. 8th February, 1917)

A death for Herbert H. Seefeldt, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Herbert Hector Seefeldt was buried on 14th February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 188 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte Herbert Hector Seefeldt 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 Seefeldt's father – Mr J. Seefeldt (sent December, 1921 & July, 1922)

Private H. H. Seefeldt is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 109.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte H. H. Seefeldt is also remembered on the Bundaberg War Memorial located at the intersection of Bourbong and Barolin Streets, Bundaberg, Queensland.



Bundaberg War Memorial (Photos from Queensland War memorial Register – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)

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The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Herbert Hector Seefeldt – service number 6205 as being 21 years old & served with 26th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Julius and Rebecca Seefeldt. Born at Bundaberg, Queensland.

A War Pension was granted to Rebecca Seefeldt, mother of the late Herbert Hector Seefeldt, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 13th April, 1917.

(47 pages of Pte Herbert Hector Seefeldt'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

PERSONAL NOTES

BUNDABERG, FEBRUARY 14

Official advice was received on Tuesday evening of the death in England of Sapper William McGrath and Private H. Seefeldt. Sapper McGrath leaves a widow and three children.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Thursday 15 February, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

274TH CASUALTY LIST

DIED – QUEENSLAND

Seefeldt, H. H., of illness

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Monday 26 February, 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 H. H. Seefeldt does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte H. H. Seefeldt's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)