

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6126 PRIVATE

O. G. DARLING

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND APRIL, 1917 Age 22

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte O. G. Darling is located in Grave Plot # 233
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Ormond Gladstone DARLING

Ormond Gladstone Darling was born at Williamstown, Victoria on 24th December, 1891. He was aged 22 years & 8 months when he enlisted on 17th August, 1914. He was a married Carpenter from 53B Lothian St, North Melbourne. Ormond Darling was given the service number of 13 & appointed to Transport Section of 6th Infantry Battalion with a rank of Driver. He had previously served 4 years with Senior Cadets in Victoria & 2 years with Victorian Rifles.

Ormond Darling was shown on the Nominal Rolls at being attached to 5th Battalion, 1st Reinforcements with a service number of 1129. He was then transferred from 5th Battalion to Army Ordnance Corps.

Ormond Darling was admitted to No. 1 Clearing Station with a Gunshot wound to knee on 12th /13th July, 1915 at Gallipoli & then transferred to Hospital in Malta on 18th July, 1915. Whilst with Army Ordnance Corp he was appointed Corporal on 19th July, 1915. Ormond Darling was transported to England aboard the *Berrima* on 8th August, 1915. The bullet was removed at Harefield Park, Middlesex, England on 22nd September, 1915 & he was discharged on 27th October, 1915, followed by furlough of 14 days.

Corporal Ormond Darling was returned to Australia on *Runic* with Rheumatism in his left knee on 7th November, 1915. He arrived in Australia on 22nd December, 1915 & discharged on 5th April, 1916. He was discharged as temporarily unfit from active service & on light duties for 3 months – dated 26th October, 1915 by Medical Board.

Ormond Darling was a 24 year old, married, Carpenter from 82 Munster Terrace, North Melbourne, Victoria when he re- enlisted on 8th May, 1916 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6126 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Jean Darling of 82 Munster Terrace, North Melbourne, Victoria.

Pte Ormond Gladstone Darling embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 28th July, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th September, 1916.

Reinforcements were usually only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Ormond Darling was marched in from Australia to 2nd Training Battalion on 15th September, 1916.

Pte Ormond Darling was Absent Without Leave from 9.30 p.m. Roll Call on 17th September, 1916 & absent from 11 a.m. on 18th September, 1916 till 6.20 p.m. on 5th October, 1916 – 18 days. He was given detention & a total forfeiture of 36 days pay.

On 24th October, 1916 Pte Darling was admitted to 1st Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire. He was discharged on 2nd December, 1916 & marched in to 2nd Training Battalion.

Pte Ormond Darling was admitted sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 16th April, 1917 & reported seriously ill with pneumonia on 18th April, 1917.

Pte Ormond Darling died of double pneumonia at 2.50 a.m. on 22nd April, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital.

A death for Ormond G. Darling, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Ormond Darling was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – on 25th April, 1917 – plot number 233 with a Military Funeral.

Pte Ormond Gladstone Darling requested in his Will, extracted from his Army Pay Book that all his effects & money be left to his mother – Mrs S. Darling of 176 Cardigan St, Carlton, Victoria.

A War Pension was granted to Ormond Richard David Darling, son of late Pte Ormond Gladstone Darling in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 25th June, 1917. A War Pension was granted to Jane Darling, widow of late Pte Ormond Gladstone Darling in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 25th June, 1917. The War Pensions for both Ormond Richard David Darling & Jean Darling were both cancelled as from 31st January, 1917.

Private O. G. Darling is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 43.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte O. G. Darling was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Darling's remarried widow – Mrs J. Harden (June, 1921 & October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ormond Darling – service number 6126 as being 22 years old & served with 5th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Ormond Gladstone Darling; husband of Jean Harden (formerly Darling) of 101 Curzon St, North Melbourne, Australia. Born at Williamstown, Victoria.

In communications by Base Records to Pensions Dept. it was discovered that Mrs J. Harden – remarried widow of late Pte Ormond Gladstone Darling had died on 3rd May, 1922 & her husband had been appointed the trustee for Master Ormond R. D. Darling. In a Statutory Declaration dated 8th August, 1922 William Alfred Harden – husband of deceased Jean Harden, formerly Darling, declared that he would preserve with due care any war medals & other items given into his custody & keep them in trust for Master Ormond Richard David Darling – son of deceased Pte Ormond Gladstone Darling.

(135 pages of Pte Ormond Gladstone Darling's 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) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

NORTH MELBOURNE POLICE COURT

Thursday November 2.

CHARGE REDUCED.

Ralph David Smith, Ormond Gladstone Darling, and Reuben McInerney, were charged with housebreaking and stealing, but the charge was reduced to larceny.

Mr. T. Fogarty (Fogarty & McDonough) appeared for Smith and Darling.

Elizabeth Bradstreet -said that she kept a confectionary and tobacco shop in Abbotsford-st. On the 25th ult, she left her premises about 2 p.m. They were partially secured, the back door not being locked, but simply having a chair against it on the inside. When she returned at 5 p.m. she found a Mr. O'Keefe in the place, who told her she had been robbed. She found cigarettes and lollies missing to the value of 5/- or 6/-. Edward Francis O'Keefe said that he kept a bootshop in Abbotsford-st., two doors from that of the last witness. On 25th ult., at 3.30 p.m., he heard a noise in her shop.- He went into the right-of-way and saw Smith there. Witness walked up to her gate and found it open. Darling was looking out of the back window and McInerney was in the

shop getting cigarettes. Witness came out of the shop, and they made a bolt, and got through the back gate. When witness got outside he saw that Smith had also disappeared.

Plain-clothes Constable Loorham said he and Plain-clothes Constable Nolan arrested Smith on Saturday last. At 2p.m. that day Darling came to the watchhouse and gave himself up. Plain-clothes Constable Nolan said that on Saturday evening he arrested McInerney.

The defence was that the shop had been practically left open, and constituted a temptation. They had entered the premises more in a spirit of fun than anything else -although no doubt reprehensible fun-but not with any felonious intent. Counsel said he did not think any good would be served by sending these youths to gaol. The whole thing was a piece of boyish escapade. The lads denied taking any cigarettes, although they admitted taking lollies. In answer to the bench, Inspector Costelloe said that Smith and McInerney had been fined on a former occasion for "two up" but there was nothing against Darling.

Smith and McInerney were each ordered to enter into £20 in themselves, and one surety of like amount to be of good behavior for twelve months, and a similar order was made in respect of Darling, but the sum was in his case £10, and the time six months.

(North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria Friday 3 November, 1911)

NORTH MELBOURNE POLICE COURT

Thursday April 25

BEHAVING IN AN OFFENSIVE MANNER.

Victor Howes and Ormond Gladstone Darling were summoned by Constable McGowan for the above offence. The constable said that on Good Friday, at 3.15 a.m., he and Senior Constable Dermody and Constable Jacobs were at the corner of Lothian and Queensberry-st., when they heard voices calling out, and some one playing the concertina. They subsequently saw Howes with a concertina, and Darling was one of the crowd. They were then proceeded against on summons. On behalf of Darling, Mr. McDonough said that it was holiday time, and the young fellows were waiting to go to a picnic. Howes was fined 5/- or six hours, and Darling 10/- or twenty-four hours.

(North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria Friday 26 April, 1912)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR – 65th CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIA – WOUNDED

O. G. Darling

(The Advertiser, South Australia Tuesday 17 August, 1915)

THE AUSTRALIANS - 293rd CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIA

DEAD – O. G. Darling

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia Tuesday 8 May, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

DARLING - On the 22nd April, in Military Hospital London, Private O. G. Darling, aged 24 years, eighth son of Mr and Mrs R. S. Darling, of 176 Cardigan Street, Carlton, beloved brother of David Cecil, Mrs Gunn, and dearly beloved brother of Edward, Richard, Frank, Stanley, on active service at the front.

A dauntless soldier and a man.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 8 May, 1917 & Wednesday 9 May, 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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 7th July, 1921, to Mrs J. Harding of 11 Vale Street, North Melbourne- remarried widow of late Pte Ormond Darling, advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription of the late Pte Ormond Darling's headstone 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 O. G. Darling does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte O. G. Darling's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)