

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



20196 DRIVER

**R. D. YEAMAN**

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

19TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 21

*Greater Love Hath No Man*

*That He Lay Down His Life*

*For His Friends*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Driver R. D. Yeaman is located in Grave Plot # 132  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Reginald Dietrich YEAMAN

Reginald Dietrich Yeaman was born at Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria in 1894 to parents Alfred and Lilian Gertrude Yeaman (nee Dietrich). He was a 22 year old, single, Farrier from Toorak, Victoria when he enlisted on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 with the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, 32<sup>nd</sup> Battery of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 20196 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his aunt – Mrs A. Dietrich of 68 Mathoura Road, Toorak, Victoria (Parents both deceased).

Reginald Dietrich Yeaman was given the position of Gunner with the Field Artillery Brigade & was promoted to Driver on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1916.

Driver Reginald Dietrich Yeaman embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

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.

Driver Reginald Dietrich Yeaman was sent to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 & discharged on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Driver Reginald Dietrich Yeaman was taken on strength with 8<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1916.

Driver Reginald Dietrich Yeaman was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. He was transferred to Tidworth Military Hospital for Observation on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & reported seriously ill on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. Driver Yeaman's aunt was notified that her nephew was dangerously ill with Cerebro spinal meningitis on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. Driver Yeaman's aunt was notified that her nephew's condition was reported as stationary on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1916 & again on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Driver Reginald Dietrich Yeaman died at 12 p.m. on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 at Lucknow Isolation Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire from Cerebro Spinal Fever (Cerebro Spinal Meningitis).

A death for Reginald D. Yeaman, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Driver Reginald Dietrich Yeaman was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 132 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Driver R. D. Yeaman had a request from the Red Cross, on behalf of his relatives regarding the suffering, death & burial. Several replies were made:

- *“Admitted to Fargo Military Hospital 9-10-16. Transferred to Tidworth 14-10-16. Suffering from a severe attack of Cerebro-Spinal Fever. At present he is better but there are still reasons for fair anxiety. Is a patient in our Lucknow Isolation Hospital. Regret to inform you that he is still in a very critical condition, suffering from Cerebro-Spinal Fever.”*
- From the Officer in Charge Tidworth Military Hospital – *“I have to inform you that several British relatives of this man visited him during his illness and they also attended the funeral. The Matron*

*has already written to his relatives in Australia, and had given them full particulars concerning his illness and funeral.”*

Driver R. D. Yeaman is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 19.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

Driver Reginald Dietrich Yeaman 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 Yeaman's aunt – Mrs A. Dietrich (both sent October, 1922) A letter to Base Records, dated 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1922, from the only sibling of the late Driver Yeaman – Vera Spain, same address as their aunt, stated she had no objection to her aunt, Miss Alice Dietrich, receiving her brother's War Medals etc. as she had been named next-of-kin.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Reginald Dietrich Yeaman – service number 20196 as being 21 years old & served with 108<sup>th</sup> Howitzer Bty, Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Alfred and Lilian Gertrude Yeaman. Born in Victoria.

(67 pages of Pte Reginald Dietrich Yeaman'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*

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## Newspaper Reports

### CASUALTY LIST

ILL

Driver R. D. Yeaman, Toorak.

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – Wednesday 8 November, 1916)*

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### DIED ON SERVICE

YEAMAN – On the 19<sup>th</sup> December, at Lucknow Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, Reginald Dietrich Yeaman, much loved brother of Vera, Mathoura Road, Toorak, aged 22 years.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Saturday 30 December, 1916 & Monday 1 January, 1917)*

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### DIED ON SERVICE

YEAMAN – On the 19<sup>th</sup> December, at Lucknow Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, Driver Reg.D. Yeaman, a former member of the staff of the Chamber of Manufacturers Insurance Ltd.

(Inserted by his friends in the above company)

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Saturday 6 January, 1917)*

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### 261ST CASUALTY LIST

#### DIED OF OTHER CAUSES

Driver R. D. Yeaman, Toorak.

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – Wednesday 10 January, 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)*

Driver R. D. Yeaman does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Greater Love Hath No Man That He Lay Down His Life For His Friends*

Photo of Driver R. D. Yeaman's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)