

# Durrington

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War II

**PEARL R. ROOT(E)**

**ORDNANCE**

**21ST FEBRUARY, 1940**

*She Died Serving Her Country*



*World War 2 poster*

## Pearl Rosina Root

Pearl Rosina Root was born in 1924. Her birth was registered in the June quarter, 1924 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire. Her mother's maiden name was listed as Jones.

Pearl Rosina Root died on the 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1940 after an explosion occurred at the factory she was working in.

A death was registered for Pearl B. Root, aged 15, in the March quarter, 1940 in the registration district of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Pearl Rosina Root was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire on 26th February, 1940 in Plot 1101.



Headstone of Pearl Rosina Root (Photo by Anthony Bysouth 2009)

*In*

*Loving Memory of*

*Our Beloved Daughter*

*Pearl Rosina Root*

*Who Died February 21<sup>st</sup> 1940*

*Aged 15 Years*

*She Died Serving Her Country*

*R. I. P.*

Pearle R. Roote is remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



**Durrington War Memorial** (Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)

## **Newspaper Reports:**

### **ONE GIRL DEAD**

#### **Received Burns in Factory Explosion**

Pearle Rosina Root, aged 15, of Durrington, died yesterday in Salisbury Infirmary as a result of burns received when an explosion occurred in a factory at Middle Woodford, Wilts, on Monday.

Two other girls were injured, and one – Miss Doris Sheppard, aged 23, of Durrington – is stated to be in a critical condition.

Miss Root originally intended to work at the infirmary in which she died, but changed her mind and went to the factory instead.

*(Western Morning News – 22 February, 1940)*



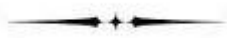
### **GIRL DIED AFTER WILTS EXPLOSION**

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Two other girls were injured, and one Doris Sheppard (23), of Durrington, is stated to be in a critical condition.

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*(Western Daily Press – 22 February, 1940) & (Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer - 22 February, 1940)*



### **MYSTERY OF EXPLOSION UNSOLVED**

#### **Salisbury Inquest on Two Factory Girls**

The mystery of an explosion which occurred as a team of three factory girls were singing after lunch remained unsolved at the resumed Salisbury inquest yesterday on two of the girls who died in Salisbury Infirmary.

Recording a verdict of accidental death caused by extensive burning and shock, the city coroner (Mr A. M. Wilson) said that the matter was a complete mystery, and whether time and science might ever elucidate it he could not say.

The explosion occurred in a factory near Salisbury, and the victims were Miss Pearl Rosina Root, of Durrington, Wiltshire, and Miss Doris Annie Shepherd, of Milston, Wiltshire

The third girl, Miss Gladys Evelyn Webb, of Wishford Road, Wilton, said that just after lunch on February 19 she and the other two were seated near a bench under which was a square ton of ignitors. They were all singing when suddenly there was a faint bang and then flames and smoke came from under the bench. The others screamed and she ran from the room with her coat and skirt alight.

*(Western Daily Press – 7 March, 1940)*



**Salisbury – The Old Infirmary now residential** *(Photo by Chris Downer 2008)*