

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



21395 BOMBARDIER

CYRIL A. PHILLIPS

9TH F. A. BDE A.I.F.

6TH NOVEMBER, 1916* Age 22

*Private Headstone for Bdr. Cyril A. Phillips is located in Grave Plot # 119
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

*(*Note- the date of death recorded on the Private Headstone is incorrect)*

Cyril Alfred Phillips

Cyril Alfred Phillips was born in Brisbane, Queensland in to parents Frederick Louis & Elizabeth Josephine Phillips (nee Bushe). His birth was registered in Queensland in 1894. Cyril Phillips was a 21 year old, single Clerk from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 18th October, 1915 with the Brigade Ammunition Column of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 21395 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. J. Phillips c/- Dalgety & Co. Brisbane, Queensland (His father had died in 1907). Cyril Phillips stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 2 ½ years with Australian Field Artillery & 1 ½ years with Senior Cadets.

Gunner Cyril Alfred Phillips embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 11th May, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th 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.

Gunner Cyril Alfred Phillips was promoted to Provisional Bombardier on 18th August, 1916.

Bombardier Cyril Alfred Phillips was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 30th October, 1916 with Pleurisy. He was reported ill with Pneumonia (serious) on 31st October, 1916. His mother was advised of his illness.

Bombardier Cyril Alfred Phillips died on 6th November, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Cyril Phillips, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Bombardier Cyril Alfred Phillips was buried on 8th November, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 119. He does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone like many of the other Australian soldiers. He has a private Headstone that was erected by his comrades in 9th Brigade, Australian Field Artillery. However the date of death on the headstone is incorrect – date of death should be 6th November, 1916

Bombardier Cyril Alfred Phillips 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 Bdr. Phillips' mother – Mrs E. J. Phillips (both sent December, 1922)

Bombardier C. A. Phillips is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 15.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Bombardier Cyril Alfred Phillips – service number 21395 as having served with 9th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Elizabeth Josephine and the late Frederick Louis Phillips of Brisbane, Queensland.

(49 pages of Bdr. Cyril Alfred Phillips' 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

FAMILY NOTICES

ROLL OF HONOUR

PHILLIPS – Bombardier Cyril Alfred Phillips 9th Field Artillery Brigade, aged 22 years 11 months, second son of late Frederick Louis Phillips, of Kilcoy, Hunter River, NSW and E. J. Phillips, of Shorncliffe, Sandgate, died of illness in Military Hospital abroad, on 6th November.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Monday 13 November, 1916 & The Queenslander, Brisbane – Saturday 18 November, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

243RD CASUALTY LIST - QUEENSLAND

Died of Illness

Bmdr. C. A. Phillips, Brisbane, 6/11/16

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – Tuesday 21 November, 1916)

WAR CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

BOMBARDIER CYRIL A. PHILLIPS

News has been received from England of the death of Bombardier Cyril A. Phillips from pneumonia. The deceased was the second son of the late Mr Frederick Louis Phillips, formerly of Sydney, and the late manager of the Commercial Bank at Fortitude Valley, Queensland.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Friday 8 December, 1916)

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)

Bdr. Cyril A. Phillips does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone nor does he have a personal inscription on his headstone. His headstone was erected by his comrades in 9th Brigade, Australian Field Artillery. The date of death on the headstone – “Nov 11th, 1916” is incorrect. The date of Bdr. Phillips’ death was 6th November, 1916.

Photo of Bombardier Cyril A. Phillips’s Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)