

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**2393 PRIVATE**

**F. S. SHEPHERDSON**

**42ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**30TH MARCH, 1917 Age 54**

*He Gave Of His Best*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte F. S. Shepherdson is located in Grave Plot # 228  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Frank Stanley SHEPHERDSON

Frank Stanley Shepherdson was born at Drummond, Malmesbury, Victoria in 1862 to parents Jabez Banks Shepherdson and Jane Shepherdson (nee Bingham).

Frank Stanley Shepherdson married Elizabeth Ethel Burban in Victoria in 1898.

The 1903 Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Glenferrie, Victoria recorded Frank Shepherdson, Inspector, & his wife Ethel, home duties, living at 2 St. Columb's Street, Hawthorn, Victoria.

The 1909 Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Glenferrie, Victoria recorded Frank Stanley Shepherdson, Insurance Agent, & his wife Ethel Elizabeth, home duties, living at 58 Riversdale Rd, Hawthorn, Victoria.

Frank Stanley Shepherdson stated he was a 45\* year old, married, Labourer from Townsville, Queensland when he enlisted on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2393 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Ethel Elizabeth Shepherdson of "Gleniffer" Willoughby Street, Milson's Point, Sydney, NSW. Frank Shepherdson stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with the Military.

Pte Frank Stanley Shepherdson embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Boonah* (A36) on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

Pte Frank Stanley Shepherdson was marched in to 11<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, Camp 13, Durrington, Wiltshire from Australia on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Frank Stanley Shepherdson was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1917\* & reported seriously ill with pneumonia on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1917\*. (\*Dates appear to be in the wrong order but is as listed as Casualty Active Service form.) Hospital Admission form states Pte Shepherdson was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 with Pneumonia.

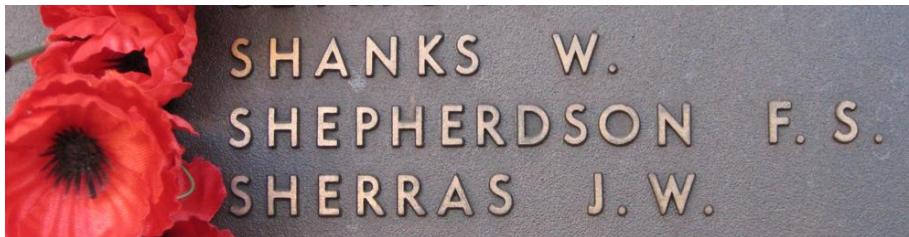
Private Frank Stanley Shepherdson died at 10.45 a.m. on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Frank S. Shepherdson, aged 45, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Frank Stanley Shepherdson was buried on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 228 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Frank Stanley Shepherdson - *Coffin was Satisfactory. Elm. Military Funeral.*

Pte Frank Stanley Shepherdson requested in his Will, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917, that he gives his “gold watch and chain to my son Stanley Edward Shepherdson, I give my wristlet watch to my niece Pippa Stevens. All the rest I may die possessed of or entitled to I leave to my wife Ethel Elizabeth Shepherdson, to whom I appoint her sole administratrix. (Sgd) Frank S. Shepherdson, Private 4<sup>th</sup>/42<sup>nd</sup> Reinf. A.I.F. B. Coy. 11 T. B. “

Private F. S. Shepherdson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 136.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Frank Stanley Shepherdson 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 Shepherdson's son – Master S. E. Shepherdson (sent August, 1921 & July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frank Stanley Shepherdson – service number 2393 as being 54 years old & served with 42nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Jabez Banks Shepherdson and Jane Shepherdson. Born at Malmsbury, Victoria.

A War Pension was granted to Ethel Eliz. Shepherdson, widow of late Pte Frank Stanley Shepherdson, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight granted from 11<sup>th</sup> June, 1917. A War Pension was also

granted to Stanley E. Shepherdson, son of late Pte Frank Stanley Shepherdson, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight granted from 11<sup>th</sup> June, 1917.

(81 pages of Pte Frank Stanley Shepherdson'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*

oooOOOooo



**Frank Stanley Shepherdson**

## Newspaper Reports

### WAR CASUALTIES

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

#### CORPORAL F. S. SHEPHERDSON

Mrs Shepherdson, of Atwatea, Wundra-road, Mosman, late of Milson's Point, has been officially notified that her husband, Corporal Frank Stanley Shepherdson, died of pneumonia on March 30, at the Fargo Military Hospital, England.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Wednesday 11 April, 1917)*

---

### ROLL OF HONOUR

SHEPHERDSON – Died of pneumonia, at the Fargo Military Hospital, England, March 30, 1917, Corporal Frank Stanley Shepherdson, husband of Ethel Shepherdson, Awatea, Wundra-road, Mosman, late of Milson's Point. He gave his life for his country.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 14 April, 1917)*

---

### CASUALTY LIST

#### 287<sup>TH</sup> LIST

#### QUEENSLAND – DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte F. S. Shepherdson, Milson's Point, NSW

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Tuesday 17 April, 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 F. S. Shepherdson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Gave Of His Best*



Photo of Pte F. S. Shepherdson's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)