

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**6320 PRIVATE**

**J. L. FARRANT**

**27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**22ND MARCH, 1917 Age 25**

*In Loving Memory*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. L. Farrant is located in Grave Plot # 226  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## James Lascelles FARRANT

James Lascelles Farrant was born in Perth, Western Australia in 1891 to parents John & Emily Kadina Farrant (nee Graham). He was a 25 year old, single, Timber Clerk from Pert, Western Australia when he enlisted on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 with the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 18<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6320 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Farrant of 158 St. George's Terrace, Perth, Western Australia. According to details on his Attestation Papers – James had previously been rejected from the Navy due to defective teeth on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1916.

Pte James Lascelles Farrant embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1917. Pte Farrant had been admitted to Ship's Hospital with suspected Measles & was in observation for 3 days – from 22<sup>nd</sup> January until 25<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 James Lascelles Farrant was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 from 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion suffering from Influenza. He was reported seriously ill with Pneumonia on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Pte James Lascelles Farrant died at 3.40 p.m. on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1917 from haemorrhage of self inflicted wound to his throat while temporarily insane.

A death for James L. Farrant, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

From the Inquest held into the death of Pte James Lascelles Farrant on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917 (with thanks to [Salisbury Inquests](#)):

*Mr Trethowan held another inquest at Fargo Hospital on Friday afternoon, concerning the death of an Australian soldier named James Lascelles Farrant, aged 25, who came from Perth, West Australia, and was stationed at Rolleston Camp.*

*Private R. W. Annear, AIF, stationed at Rolleston Camp, said Farrant was his cousin, and he believed he had some home trouble, but when he last spoke to him he did not appear to be worried.*

*Lieutenant-Colonel Le Quesne, RAMC, officer in charge of Fargo Hospital, said Farrant was admitted to the Hospital on March 8<sup>th</sup>, suffering from bronchial-pneumonia. On Thursday afternoon he was informed that Lascelles had injured his throat, and on going to the bedside found his throat cut. There was a razor on the bed. There had been no signs of delirium or insanity, and accordingly the man was allowed the use of the razor. Despite efforts to stop the bleeding, the man died from haemorrhage in about a quarter of an hour.*

*Lieutenant G. H. Hanna, RAMC, said the man had been under his charge while at the Hospital. He considered that his illness caused him to be temporarily insane at the time he inflicted the wound to his throat.*

*The jury returned a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity.*

Pte James Lascelles Farrant was buried on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 226. He was given a Military Funeral.

Pte James Lascelles Farrant requested in his Will, dated 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1917, that all of his money be given to his “dear sister Jessie Lascelles Farrant, 98 Harold St, Mount Lawley, Perth, Western Australia.”

Private J. L. Farrant is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 110.



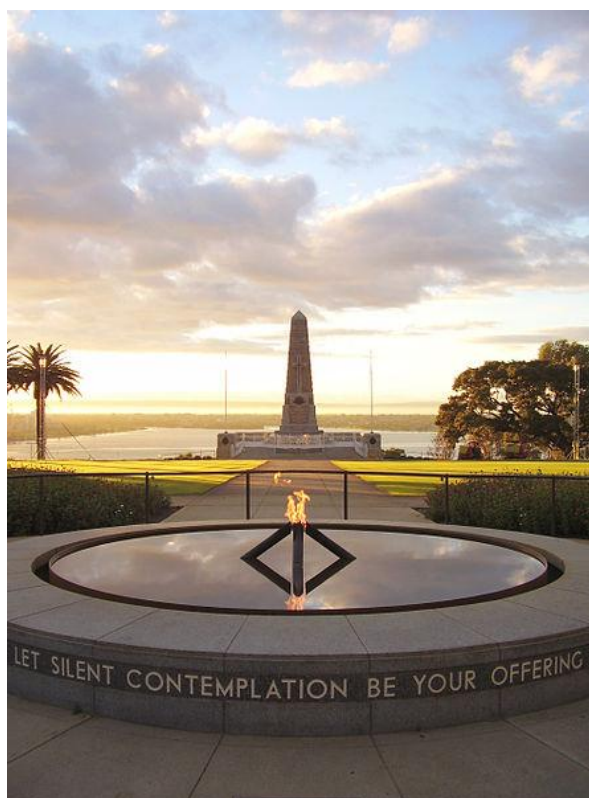
(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

Pte James Lascelles Farrant was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Farrant’s father – Mr J. Farrant (both June, 1922)

James Farrant is also remembered on the State War Memorial located in King's Park, Perth, Western Australia.



(Photo by Mark - Wikipedia )

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Lascelles Farrant – service number 6320 as being 25 years old & served with 27th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Emily Kadina Farrant of 158 St. George Terrace, Perth, Western Australia.

(63 pages of Pte James Lascelles Farrant'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

### **ANSWERED THE CALL**

#### TO-DAY'S ENLISTMENTS

To-day the following submitted themselves for examination by the recruiting officer's with the noted results:-

FIT

J. L. Farrant, 155 St. George's Terrace, Perth.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1916)*

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### **W.A. CASUALTIES – 285th Official List**

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Private J. L. FARRANT, Perth.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1917)*

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### **W.A. CASUALTIES – 286th Official List**

4<sup>th</sup> Military District.

J. L. Farrant, Perth, died of injuries, previously reported cause not stated.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1917)*

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### **KILLED IN ACTION**

FARRANT.- In Loving memory of Private James Lascelles Farrant, 6320 A.I.F., 18-27 reinforcements, on active service, at Fergo Military Hospital, England, on March 22, 1917, aged 25 years. He never saw suffering without trying to alleviate it. God's will be done.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents, John and E. K. Farrant.

*(The Western Mail, Perth, Friday 6 April, 1917)*

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## DEATHS

FARRANT.-In loving memory of our dear son, James Lascelles Farrant, aged 25, who died March 22, 1917, in Fergo Hospital, England. Mr. and Mrs. J. Farrant THANK their many relatives and friends for their kindly sympathy in their sad bereavement.

-Inserted by his parents, John and E. K. Farrant, Gooseberry Hill.

*(The Western Mail, Perth, Friday 4 May, 1917)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Anzac Heroes

FARRANT – Sacred to the loving memory of Private James Lascelles Farrant (Jim), died Fargo Military Hospital March 22, 1917.

At rest.

-Inserted by his loving aunt, E. M. Annear.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Friday 22 March, 1918)*

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## STATE WAR MEMORIAL

### Names For Tablet

#### A FURTHER LIST

The names of all West Australian soldiers who gave their lives during the Great War are to be handed down to posterity by means of a series of tables bearing their names, on the walls of a section of the State War Memorial on Mount Eliza. It is intended to include, apart from those who enlisted within the State the names of all West Australians who enlisted in other parts and paid the supreme sacrifice. Already, a list of 6,000 names is in the hands of the War Memorial Committee, and this list is being published in alphabetical order in 'The West Australian' from day to day. Friends and relatives of West Australian soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice and whose names are not included in the published list are asked to assist the committee by supplying particulars which, for obvious reasons, must be endorsed by the Defence Department. A further section of the list of names is published below: —

Cpl. FARMER. Augustus Pegg (M.M.), 16th Bat.

Pte. FARMER, George Henry. 43rd. Bat.

Pte. FARMER, Lowrie, 28th Bat.

Pte. FARMERY, Arthur, 11th Bat.

Pte. FARRANT, James Lascelles, 27th Bat.

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*(The West Australian, Perth, Friday 25 July, 1930)*

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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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, to Mr J. Farrant advising that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription of the late Pte J. L. Farrant'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. Several letters were exchanged back & forth.

The family of the late Pte James Lascelles Farrant had originally requested the following to be inscribed on his headstone but this was rejected as the length was too long & there was repetition of information:

*In Memoriam*

*James Lascelles Farrant*

*Age 25*

*He gave his life for my motherland. During his short life his heart was ever open to suffering – but God in His infinite mercy has only called his own. Requiscent in Peace.*

*Father Mother Brothers Sisters and many friends.*

Pte J. L. Farrant does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory*

(Unable to read the headstone inscription fully as a plant is growing in front, however a letter to Base Records from Mr John Farrant states that they wished an amended phrase - "In Loving Memory" be inscribed)

Photo of Pte J. L. Farrant's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)