

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



2558 PRIVATE

**L. J. C. P. GRUNDY**

39TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

20TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 21

*We Missed You Most*

*Who Loved You Best*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte L. J. C. P. Grundy is located in Grave Plot # 207  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Leslie John Charles Phair GRUNDY

Leslie John Charles Phair Grundy was born in July, 1896 at Gingkin, to parents John & Ann Jane Grundy (nee Phair). His birth was registered as Leslie C. P. Grundy in the district of Katoomba, New South Wales. He was a 21 year old, single Labourer from Cox's River, via Picton, NSW when he enlisted on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1916 with the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2558 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – John Grundy of Cox's River, NSW.

Pte Leslie John Charles Grundy embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9<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 Leslie John Charles Grundy was marched in to 10<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Leslie John Charles Grundy was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital with Influenza on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Communication was sent to Pte Grundy's father on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 advising that Pte Leslie Grundy was admitted to Hospital on 5<sup>th</sup> February suffering from Broncho Pneumonia – Severe.

Pte Leslie John Charles Grundy died of Broncho Pneumonia at Fargo Military Hospital at 9 a.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

A death for Leslie J. C. Grundy, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Leslie John Charles Grundy was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 207 on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1917.

Private L. C. P. Grundy is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 131.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

L. Grundy is also remembered on the Lower Burrigorang & Cox's River Honour Roll located in Wollondilly Heritage Centre, Edward St, The Oaks, NSW.



*(Photo from Register of War Memorials NSW)*

Pte Leslie John Charles Grundy was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Grundy's father – John Grundy (January, 1922 & August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie John Charles Phair Grundy – service number 2558 as being 21 years old & served with 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John & Ann Grundy of Cox's River, New South Wales. Born at Gingkin, New South Wales.

(38 pages of Pte Leslie John Charles Grundy'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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**\*\* Lieutenant Fred Ditzell of 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion – first cousin of Pte Grundy, was killed in action at Passchendaele, Belgium on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1917, aged 26. He was buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium.**

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## Newspaper Reports

### **ROLL OF HONOUR – 277th LIST**

NSW – DIED OF ILLNESS

L. J. C. Grundy, Cox's River, 20/2/17 (prev. rep. ser. III)

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane Saturday 17 March, 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)*

Pte L. J. C. P Grundy does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*We Missed You Most Who Loved You Best*

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



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)