

**Cambridge City Cemetery,
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



683 PRIVATE

J. A. RONALD

27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH JULY, 1916 Age 25

*A Brother And
A Friend So Dear
Duty Called
And He Was There*

John Angus RONALD

John Angus Ronald was born at Adelaide, South Australia on 24th August, 1890 to parents Andrew Bennett Ronald and Margaret Lillian Ronald (nee Chapman).

Margaret Ronald, mother of John Angus Ronald, died on 10th February, 1896 in Adelaide, South Australia.

John Angus Ronald was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from Alpha Road, Solomontown, South Australia when he enlisted at Keswick, South Australia on 22nd February, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 683 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs E. C. Clutterham, of Alpha Road, Solomontown, South Australia.

Private John Angus Ronald was posted to "H" Company on 22nd February, 1915 then transferred to "C" Company on 16th March, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "C" Company of 27th Infantry Battalion on 7th April, 1915.

Private John Angus Ronald embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Geelong* (A2) on 31st May, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 27th Infantry Battalion, "C" Company.

Private John Angus Ronald embarked from Alexandria to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli Peninsula on 4th September, 1915.

Private John Angus Ronald was sent sick to 7th Field Ambulance on 2nd December, 1915 at Gallipoli Peninsula. He was admitted to Dysentery then transferred the same day to 13th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Ronald was transferred to Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle* from Anzac on 3rd December, 1915 & admitted to 21st General Hospital at Alexandria on 8th December, 1915 with Dysentery. He was transferred on 15th December, 1915 & admitted to Convalescent Camp at Ras-el-Tin with Enteritis from 21st General Hospital. Private Ronald was discharged from Convalescent Camp on 27th December, 1915 to Australian Base at Mustapha. He was admitted to Overseas Base at Cairo on 28th December, 1915.

Lieutenant A. A. Pearce, Area Officer, Port Pirie, South Australia, wrote to Base Records in December, 1915 stating that Mrs E. C. Clutterham, of Alpha Road, Solomontown had visited him with a cutting from the newspaper which show that "*No. 9, Pte J. A. Ronald, of "C" Company, 27th Battalion is seriously ill in the 21st General Hospital Alexandria, and that he has no relatives.*" The letter further states that Mrs Clutterham had a brother who enlisted without her knowing & during a holiday in Adelaide she had visited the Keswick Barracks & was informed her brother was No. 683 J. A. Ronald also of "C" Coy, 27th Battalion. Mrs Clutterham was anxious to know if No. 9 and No. 683 were identical with each other. Base Records replied direct to Mrs Clutterham on 28th December, 1915 that a cabled message had reported that her brother No. 683 Private John Angus Ronald had been admitted to the 21st General Hospital on 8th December, 1915 suffering from dysentery, severe. The discrepancy with the regimental number was due to a press error. Base Records advised "*in view of the representations made in Lieutenant Pearce's letter, your name has been placed on the records of the above soldier & you will be promptly advised upon receipt of any later information.*"

Private John Angus Ronald was transferred from Overseas Base to Zeitoun on 28th January, 1916.

The Red Cross Wounded and Missing file for Private John Angus Ronald contains a letter dated 1st March, 1916 to the Red Cross from Mrs R. Philbey, Pinnaroo who was enquiring if a soldier had left Adelaide with the 27th Battalion by the name of John Angus Ronald. John Ronald was her brother & he hadn't let anyone know. Mrs Philbey had seen in the paper that her brother had been wounded & was enquiring about any further information. The Red Cross wrote to Base Records enquiring into further information on Private John Angus Ronald. The Red Cross replied to Mrs Philbey on 30th March, 1916 stating that "*J. A. Ronald, No. 683, 27th Battalion... was reported as seriously ill in the 21st General Hospital, Alexandria.*" The letter continued with "*Although the records denote this soldier has no relatives, we presume this is your brother....*" An address was given for Mrs Philbey to contact her brother overseas as it was noted that several months had passed since the notification in the papers.

Private John Angus Ronald rejoined his Battalion at Ismalia on 6th March, 1916.

Private John Angus Ronald was to proceed from Alexandria on 16th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & to disembark at Marseilles, France on 21st March, 1916. However he was reported as missing when the Battalion embarked from Alexandria on 16th March, 1916. He rejoined his Battalion in France on 29th March, 1916.

Private John Angus Ronald was written up for a Crime on 30th March, 1916 while at Marseilles, France – “1. *Failing to obey an order* 2. *Failing to entrain with Battalion*”. He was awarded 14 days No. 2 F. P. (Field Punishment).

Private John Angus Ronald was wounded in action in France on 29th June, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 30th June, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right leg. Private Ronald was transferred & admitted to No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station on 30th June, 1916 then transferred to Base Hospital. He was admitted to No. 3 Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 30th June, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right & left leg. Private Ronald was transferred to Hospital Ship *St. Denis* where he embarked for England on 2nd July, 1916.

27th Battalion

The 27th Battalion was raised in South Australia in March 1915, from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, a large number of whom hailed from the suburbs of Adelaide. The battalion left Australia in June, and, after two months spent training in Egypt, landed at Gallipoli on 12 September.

At Gallipoli, the 7th Brigade, which included the 27th Battalion, reinforced the weary New Zealand and Australian Division. The 27th had a relatively quiet time at Gallipoli and the battalion departed the peninsula in December, having suffered only light casualties.

After another stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France as part of the 2nd Australian Division. The 27th Battalion entered the front-line trenches for the first time on 7 April 1916 and took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 28 July and 5 August.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 27th Battalion

*28th June, 1916 – Enemy’s artillery shelled Trenches during day and at night.
Casualties - Killed Lieut. John & one OR wounded.*

28/29th June, 1916 – During night our raiding party entered Enemy’s Trenches at Ontario Farm under Artillery Barrage & did some damage. Killing 17 enemy and taking 4 prisoners. Retaliation by Borche Artillery severe.

Our Casualties – Wounded Lt. Sommerville J. R & Gooden S.R.

Other Ranks – Killed 4 Wounded 26

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Angus Ronald was admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England on 2nd July, 1916 with a fractured right leg.

Private John Angus Ronald died on 4th July, 1916 at 1st Eastern General (Military) Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England from wounds received in action in France – Gas Gangrene.

A death for John Ronald, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Private John Angus Ronald was buried in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England – Grave Site “D”, Grave No. 2597.

In April, 1920 Mrs E. Clutterham, of 61 Argent Street, Broken Hill, NSW, sister of the late Private John Angus Ronald, was advised by Base Records that the remains of her late brother had been exhumed from former site & re-interred in Grave No. 3637 Section "C", Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, England. *"This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Private John Angus Ronald has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mrs A. M. Lane, of Lane & Oxide Streets, Broken Hill, NSW wrote to Base Records on 11th July, 1916 stating that she had just received word of her brother's death, Private J. A. Ronald, 27th Battalion, No. 683 & enquired of he was killed or died of illness *"also who is he leaving his money too, or what has become of his things, I am his oldest sister..."* Base Records replied that the only details they had was that her brother had died of Gas Gangrene in Military Hospital Cambridge. Base Records stated they had no knowledge of a Will but the soldier may have prepared one on the form provided in his Pay Book & any personal effects would be sent to the next-of-kin. Base Records added at the bottom of the reply letter that the next-of-kin of the above soldier was shown as his sister Mrs E. Clutterham.

The Red Cross Wounded and Missing file for Private John Angus Ronald contains another letter dated 24th July, , 1916 to the Red Cross from Mrs R. Philbey, Uloomoo, asking about the cause of death of her brother Private John Angus Ronald, whom she had heard from her sister that she had received a wire to say that he was killed. Mrs R. Philbey also requested to know that next-of-kin as her brother had *"3 sisters living in Broken Hill but they never knew his address until I gave it to them after getting it from you, & now his other brother is leaving for the front & was in hopes of meeting the youngest one over there, he has also a father living in Gladstone at present, his name is, Andrew Bennett Ronald, so I don't know what made him say he had no relatives, but he always was roaming, & we never knew where he was, so you will see that is why we never knew he had gone....."*

J. M. O'Leary, of Petersburg, South Australia wrote to Base Records on 2nd October, 1916 asking if any Will had been left by the late Private J. A Ronald, No. 682 27th Battalion C. Company who died of Gas Gangrene at the Military Hospital Cambridge England on July 4th 1916. J. M. O'Leary also enquired as to the address of the Military Hospital Cambridge in order to find out if there were any papers found on the late Private in regards to his Will. Base Records replied to J. M. O'Leary stating that there was no record of a Will but a Will may have been prepared on the form provided in his pay book, which had yet to be recovered.

Mrs E. R. Clutterham, c/o Mrs D. Peterson, Crystal Street, Broken Hill, NSW, sister of the late Private John Angus Ronald, wrote to Base Records on 26th November, 1916 asking *"How long do you think it will be before my brother's Kit will be home here Private J. A. Ronald 683 of the 27th Battalion I mean killed on 4th July 1916 & was there any money at all of his left as I am in very poor circumstance as I don't live with my husband. & my health is very bad & at present I am not able to work. I applied some time ago at ___ here for my brother's pension but it was not given me as at the time I was living with my husband but before Private Ronald went to the war he always kept me & I miss it so now & I thought perhaps there might have been some money of his or due to him which would be very acceptable now. ..."*

Mrs E. R. Clutterham, sister of the late Private John Angus Ronald, advised Base Records in December, 1916 that her new address would be changed from c/o Mrs D. Peterson, Crystal Street, Broken Hill, NSW to c/o Miss E. Davids, Lobethal, South Australia.

Mrs A. Lane, of Lane & Oxide Streets, Broken Hill, NSW wrote to Base Records on 12th December, 1916 asking for information concerning her brother who was killed on July 4th, 1916, No. 683. Private J. A. Ronald, 27th Battalion, 7th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F. Mrs Lane asked who was to get the 1/- per day that was kept back from his pay & asked if her brother had left a Will or if there was anything belonging to him as she would like them sent on to her, provided they were not left to anyone in his Will. Mrs Lane advised Base Records that *"Mrs Clutterham has left here and we don't know here she has gone. She has I have been told writing saying that she was receiving so much a week from my brother which she never did as he has never lived with her since he was 16 years of age so if you would be kind enough to let me have any information I would be very much oblige to you."*

Private John Angus Ronald requested in his Will, extracted from A. B. 64 (Soldier's Pay Book), that in the event of his death, the whole of his effects be given to Miss O. Pascoe, Loyd Street, Petersburg, South Australia.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Clutterham, of 25 Garnet Street, Broken Hill, NSW, sister of the late Private John Angus Ronald, in November, 1920, stating that she was noted on the records as the next-of-kin & asked if *“there were any nearer blood relatives than herself – are his father and mother living, if not, has he any brothers (stating the eldest) or any sister older than yourself (stating the eldest)”* due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs E. Clutterham, c/o Imperial Hotel, Oxide Street, Broken Hill, sister of the late Private John Angus Ronald, replied to Base Records in November, 1920 stating that her father was living & was at present an inmate of the Gladstone Jail. Her eldest brother she stated was in the West – A. B. Ronald, Manager Kybuley Station via Crambrook, W.A. Mrs Clutterham went on to say that she *“would so much like the medal as my brother and I were always together until the war & the rest of my family are strangers to us as we were put in the state as babies & we never parted both being sent to the one home & ___ ___ 14 years & during all that time we never knew we had any brothers & sisters at all & we only knew of them by letters...for many years none of them ___ where we were & it will be a small memento to remember my brother with. I would so much love it but of course I am the youngest of the family ___ brother 1 year & 8 months older than me the others are all a good deal older than us....”*

Mrs E. R. Clutterham, c/o Imperial Hotel, Oxide Street, Broken Hill, sister of the late Private John Angus Ronald, signed a Declaration on 16th December, 1920 stating that she would *“hereby undertake to preserve with due care any war medals or other items given into my custody on account of the services rendered by the late No. 683 Private J. A. Ronald, 27th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, and to return them to the Department of Defence, upon demand in writing, should they be required for the purpose of being handed to someone having a prior claim to myself.”*

Mrs E. R. Clutterham, sister of the late Private John Angus Ronald, advised Base Records in February, 1921 that her new address would be Denver City Hotel, Argent Street, Broken Hill, NSW.

Private John Angus Ronald was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Ronald's sister – Mrs E. R. Clutterham, his sister. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Angus Ronald – service number 683, aged 25, of 27th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Andrew and Margaret Lillian Ronald.

Private J. A. Ronald is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 111.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte J. Ronald is remembered on the Cowell War Memorial, located at Main Street & Esplanade, Cowell, South Australia.



Cowell War Memorial (Photos from *Monument Australia* – Roger Johnson)



J. A. Ronald is remembered on the Franklin Harbour Roll of Honour, located at the Franklin Harbour War Memorial, Third Street, Cowell, South Australia.



J. A. Ronald is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

J. A. Ronald is remembered on the Broken Hill & District War Memorial (The Bomber), located at Broken Hill War Memorial Reserve, Sulphide & Argent Streets, Broken Hill, NSW.



Broken Hill & District War Memorial
 (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)



(95 pages of Private John Angus Ronald'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

THE AUSTRALIANS

124th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED AND ILL IN HOSPITAL

683 – Pte J. A. RONALD, 27th Battalion (no relatives), seriously ill, in 21st General Hospital, Alexandria.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 December, 1915)

THE AUSTRALIANS

185th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED

Pte J. A. RONALD, Broken Hill

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 July, 1916)

DEATH

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

RONALD – Killed in action in France, July 4, 1916, Jack, youngest brother of Mrd W. G. Lane, Lane-street, also Mrs W. M'Culloch, South Broken Hill, Mrs Philly, of Pinnaroo, South Australia and Mr A. B. Ronald, West Australia. Gone, but not forgotten.

RONALD – Killed in action in France, from gas, Private John Angas Ronald, youngest son of Angas Ronald, and brother of Mrs E. R. Clutterham, of Wolfram-street, Broken Hill. Aged 27 years.

(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW – 24 July, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

RONALD – In loving memory of Private J. A. (Jack) Ronald, who was killed in France July 4th 1916. "Gone but not forgotten." Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law and nephews, A. and W. H., R. and A. Lane.

(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW – 4 July, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

RONALD – In loving memory of my brother, Private John A. Ronald, who was killed in France, July 4, 1916.

While you lie in peaceful sleep,

Your memory I will always keep.

-Inserted by his sister Doll, Lobethal.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 July, 1917) & (The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 July, 1917) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 July, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

RONALD – In loving memory of our brother, Private Jack A. Ronald, who died of wounds in France, July 4, 1916.

His King and country called him,
The call was not in vain;
On Australia's roll of honor
You will find our brother's name.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, E. and R. Philbey, Ulooloo.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 July, 1917) & (*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 July, 1917) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 July, 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. 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*)

Private J. A. Ronald does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Brother And A Friend So Dear

Duty Called And He Was There

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge (known locally as Newmarket Road Cemetery) contains 1,019 Commonwealth War Graves – 186 from World War 1 & 833 from World War 2.

The 1st Eastern General Hospital, with 1,173 beds, was posted to Cambridge during the First World War, initially at the Leys School and Trinity College, later in huts. The First World War burials in Cambridge City Cemetery are mostly in two plots, one in the southern part of the burial ground, known as the Dominion Plot, and the other on the northern boundary. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western border of the Dominion Plot, while in the centre of the other is a memorial cross of Portland stone which was erected by private subscription. The Second World War graves are also mainly in two War Graves Plots with a few others scattered throughout the cemetery. The general Service plot was established in 1940, and the Air Force plot in 1942 for the burial of casualties from the Air Force stations set up in the eastern counties during the war. These included Bomber Command bases in Lincolnshire and fighter stations in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Stone of Remembrance, which was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder in July 1951, stands near the centre of the Air Force plot. Cambridge City Cemetery contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 829, (inclusive 3 unidentified), from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains four non-war service burials and ten war graves of other nationalities.

(*Information & photos from CWGC*)





Photo of Private J. A. Ronald's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.



(Photo by Len – Find a Grave)



Entrance to Cambridge City Cemetery & Map (below) (Photos by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

