

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4977 PRIVATE

J. ADAMS

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH MARCH, 1919 Age 21

*A Soldier Brave
Lies In This Grave
His Duty Nobly Done
R.I.P.*

John ADAMS

John Adams was born at Hawera, New Plymouth, New Zealand in 1897 to parents John and Maud Adams (according to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial – John Adams was born at “*Rata Rangitikei*”)

John Adams attended Catholic School at Hawera, New Zealand.

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial – John Adams came to Australia when he was 19 years old.

John Adams was a 22 year old, single, Jockey when he enlisted on 28th December, 1916 at Tamworth, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4977 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Adams, “Hawera” Wilson Street, Taranaki, New Zealand.

(According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial – John Adams had served with Military Territorials in New Zealand).

Private John Adams was posted to R.A.S.G. (Royal Agricultural Show Ground), Sydney, NSW on 2nd January, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to Liverpool, Sydney, NSW with “C” Company on 4th January, 1917.

Private John Adams was transferred to Milson Island on 26th January, 1917 with V.D. then returned to Camp at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 21st April, 1917. A Memo from O.C. Milson Island to O.C. 1st Depot Battalion, Liverpool, dated 26th January, 1917 reads: “*Private Adams John has been transferred from Detention Barracks Darlinghurst to this camp for treatment. Please forward as soon as possible Attestation Papers Issue Card and D. I. Forms.*” He was transferred to “G” Company on 23rd April, 1917 then transferred again to 14th Reinforcements of 30th Battalion on 3rd May, 1917.

Private John Adams embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 10th May, 1917 with the 30th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 20th July, 1917.

30th Battalion

The 30th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Liverpool in New South Wales on 5 August 1915. Most of its recruits hailed from the Newcastle region and other parts of country New South Wales, but almost an entire company was composed of former RAN ratings from Victoria.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Adams had been written up for an Offence while at Sea on 17th May, 1917 – “*Disobedience of Orders – Gambling*”. He was awarded a forfeiture of 4 days’ pay on 18th May, 1917 by Major P. L. Murray.

Private John Adams was written up for another Offence while at Sea on 7th June, 1917 – “*Disobedience of Ship’s orders – Gambling*”. He was awarded 168 hours Detention on 8th June, 1917 by Major Bushill.

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.

Private John Adams was marched in to 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 20th July, 1917 from Australia.

Private John Adams was sent sick to Camp Hospital at Hurdcott on 10th August, 1917. He was discharged & was marched back in to 8th Training Battalion on 12th August, 1917.

Private John Adams was sent sick to Camp Hospital at Hurdcott on 17th October, 1917. He was discharged & was marched into Camp on 19th October, 1917.

Private John Adams was marched in to 14th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 5th November, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion.

Private John Adams proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 14th November, 1917 from 14th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Le Havre, France on 15th November, 1917 from England. Private Adams was marched out to his Unit on 19th November, 1917 & was taken on strength of 30th Battalion from Reinforcements in the Field on 29th November, 1917.

Private John Adams was sent sick to Hospital on 7th December, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Field Ambulance on 7th December, 1917 with Frost Bite to toes then transferred & admitted to 5th D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 11th December, 1917. Private Adams was transferred to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 16th December, 1917 then admitted to 1st Australian D.R.S. on 17th December, 1917 with Frost Bite to Great Toe on both Feet. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 20th December, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on the same day with Trench Feet. Private Adams was transferred to Ambulance Train on 23rd December, 1917 & admitted to 24th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 23rd December, 1917. He was transferred to England on 7th January, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* with Frost Bite to Toes.

Private John Adams was admitted to St. Michael's Annex, Queen's Park Auxiliary Hospital, Birchington, Kent (affiliated with Shorncliffe Military Hospital) on 7th January, 1918 with Frost Bite to Toes (both feet). He was transferred & admitted to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent on 21st February, 1918. Private Adams was discharged to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 25th February, 1918.

Private John Adams was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 25th February, 1918 from 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford. He was medically classified as B1 A1 (fit for light duties for 4 weeks) on 18th March, 1918. Private Adams was medically classified as B1 A1 on 27th March, 1918 & on 3rd April, 1918 classified as B1 A2 (fit for Overseas Training Camp in 3-4 weeks). Private Adams was classified as B1 A4 (fit for Overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit) on 30th April, 1918.

Private John Adams was marched in to Overseas Training Battalion at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 4th May, 1918 from No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private John Adams proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 30th May, 1918 from Overseas Training Battalion at Longbridge Deverill. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 4th June, 1918 from A.P.M., Boulogne. Private Adams was marched out from Havre, France to England & medically classified as "B3".

Private John Adams was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset, England on 25th June, 1918 from France.

Private John Adams was written up for an Offence at Weymouth on 4th July, 1918 – "*Neglecting to obey orders re Bounds*". This was admonished on 8th July, 1918 by Lieutenant Colonel F. G. Woods.

Private John Adams was transferred to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 5th July, 1918 from No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth.

Private John Adams was sent sick to Camp Isolation Hospital, Hurdcott with Scabies on 22nd July, 1918. He was discharged to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 29th July, 1918.

Private John Adams was Absent without Leave from 31st August, 1918. He returned 2nd September, 1918.

Private John Adams was written up for an offence on 31st August, 1918 while posted at Hurdcott – "*Neglecting to obey orders re Bounds*". He was awarded a forfeiture of 3 days' pay by Lieutenant Colonel F. G. Woods. "*Period under charge – 8 days; total forfeiture 11 days' pay (Date of 1st investigation 4th September, 1918)*". G.O.C. A.I.F. remitted the forfeiture of pay for period under charge of 8 days.

Private John Adams was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 3rd December, 1918 with V.D. He was discharged to Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 13th February, 1919.

Private John Adams was admitted to No. 3 G. C. Parkhouse on 27th February, 1919 with Dermatitis. He was transferred to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 7th March, 1919 with Broncho Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form reported "*very ill on admission...had bronchitis throughoutearly delirium set in & his condition quickly got worse....*" He was reported to be dangerously ill at Delhi Hospital on 9th March, 1919.

Private John Adams died at 16.00 hours on 10th March, 1919 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Broncho Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*...his condition quickly got worse & he died on 10.3.19...*"

(Note: Casualty Form Active Service – handwritten form has recorded 2 separate dates for his death – 10th March, 1919 & 11th March, 1919. The typed version has the date of death as 10th March, 1919. The "Purport" form also has 2 entries for death – 1 entry for 10th March & another entry for 11th March, 1919. The Statement of Service form has date of death as 11th March, 1919 then crossed out to show 10th March, 1919 as does the "Burial Report Regarding Funeral" form. The final Summary Sheet in the Service Record file (page 106) has date of death as 11th March, 1919 listed twice then "Correct date of death 10/3/19".)

(As a result of the confusion with the date of death - The Australian War Memorial & the Commonwealth War Graves Commission both have the date of death as 11th March, 1919. His CWGC Headstone also has the date of death as 11th March, 1919.)

A death for John Adams, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Private John Adams was buried on 14th March, 1919 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number A. 80 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private John Adams - *Coffin was Elm. Brass mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honors the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing party and band of the "Royal Scots Greys". Six Australians supported the Pall. A number of Officers N.C.O.'s and Men of the A.I.F. and Imperial Forces followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in U.K. were represented at the funeral.*

Base Records wrote to The Director of Base Records, Defence Department, Wellington, NZ on 20th March, 1919 "*With reference to my BA. 32 concerning No. 4997 Private J. Adams, 30th Battalion, information has just been received from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, to the effect that the correct date of death is 10/3/19.*"

Private John Adams requested in his Will, dated 19th July, 1918, that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Maud Adams of 38 Wilson Street, Hawera. She was also appointed Executrix of the Will.

Private John Adams was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private Adams' father – Mr John Adams, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll marked as sent August, 1921 & Plaque marked as sent November, 1922).

Maud Adams, 202 Worcester St, Christchurch, New Zealand, mother of the late Private John Adams, wrote to Base Records on 28th April, 1920 "*with reference to Service Medals would you kindly forward Medals & ribbons to his (Mother) Maud Adams.*"

Base Records replied to Mrs M. Adams on 17th May, 1920 & advised "*...any War Medals or other items that may be issued in connection with your son, the late No. 4977 Private J. Adams, 30th Battalion, must go to the late soldier's father, who is the person entitled to receive according to the Regulations under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918. Is it to be understood your husband is also residing at the undermentioned address?*"

Mrs Maud Adams, 302 Manchester Street, Christchurch, replied to Base Records on 28th May, 1920 stating "*.... I may state that his father has interest in _._.(?) that takes him abroad but we are at present residing at the above address any communications will find father or mother. Thanking you..*"

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Adams, 302 Manchester Street, Christchurch, New Zealand on 22nd December, 1921 stating that the British War Medal issued for the late No. 4977 Private J. Adams, had been forwarded on 12th August, 1921 but no receipt had been returned to Base Records. Another receipt form was enclosed.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Adams, 302 Manchester Street, Christchurch, New Zealand on 6th June, 1923 stating that communications regarding the covering letter advising of the despatch of the Memorial Plaque had been returned unclaimed but the memento had also despatched to the same address a short time later. Enquiries were made to the Postal authorities who advised that the parcel was acknowledged by Mr Adams. Base Records were writing to Mr Adams to let them know if he had received the item as the Receipt form had not been completed & returned.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Adams – service number 4977, aged 21, of 30th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Maud Adams, of 302 Manchester St., Christchurch.

Private J. Adams is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 116.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

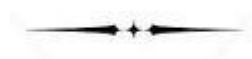
(107 pages of Private John Adams' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives





Private John Adams



Newspaper Notices

381ST CASUALTY LIST

ILL

Pte JOHN ADAMS, New Zealand

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Australia – 1 February, 1918)

PERSONAL

Mr J. Adams, of Hawera, has received a telegram from Sir James Allen advising him of the death from pneumonia, on March 11, of his son Private John Adams, who was on service with the Australian forces. Private John Adams, who was a Hawera boy, was 22 years of age.

(Stratford Evening Post, New Zealand – 21 March, 1919)

WITH OTHER FORCES

The following casualties among ex-New Zealanders serving with the Imperial and Australian Forces were reported at the weekend:-

WITH THE AUSTRALIANS

DIED OF SICKNESS

Adams, John, 4977 (J. Adams, Hawera, f.) March 11th

(New Zealand Times – 25 March, 1919)

N.S.W. CASUALTIES

The 463rd list of casualties issued this morning.....

DIED OTHER CAUSES

ADAMS, J., New Zealand

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 17 April, 1919)

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. Adams does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Soldier Brave Lies In This Grave

His Duty Nobly Done

R.I.P.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish. *(Information from CWGC)*



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)*



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers -Kevin)

Photo of Private J. Adams' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers -Kevin)

