

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6702 PRIVATE

W. C. ADDEMS

29TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH AUGUST, 1917 Age 26

*He Gave His Life For
King And Country
Resting In God*

William Charles ADDEMS

William Charles Addems was born at Mount Gambier, South Australia on 26th November, 1890 to parents Alfred & Elizabeth Addems (nee Taylor)

William Charles Addems attended State School at Mt Gambier, South Australia.

William Charles Addems was a 25 year old, single, Labourer from Mount Gambier, South Australia when he enlisted at Cootamundra, New South Wales on 1st February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. Addems, Mt. Gambier, South Australia.

Private William Charles Addems was posted to "A" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion at Cootamundra, NSW on 1st February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "A" Company, 3rd Depot Battalion at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 12th September, 1916. Private Addems was transferred on 9th October, 1916 to "B" Company, 3rd Battalion then transferred to 22nd Reinforcements of 14th Battalion on 17th November, 1916.

Private William Charles Addems, Service number 6702, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on SS *Port Napier* on 17th November, 1916 with the 14th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th 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.

Private William Charles Addems was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 30th January, 1917 from Overseas.

Private William Charles Addems proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 20th March, 1917 from 4th Training Battalion, Codford. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 21st March, 1917.

Private William Charles Addems was allotted to & proceeded to join 29th Battalion on 11th April, 1917. He was taken on strength of 29th Battalion on 15th April, 1917 in the Field.

Private William Charles Addems reported sick on 8th July, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 8th July, 1917 with Bronchitis. Private Addems was transferred to 56th Casualty Clearing Station on 8th July, 1917 then on 12th July, 1917 he was transferred to 28 Ambulance Train. He was admitted to 1st General Hospital at Etretat, France on 13th July, 1917. Private Addems was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Kalyam* on 18th July, 1917.

29th Battalion

The 29th Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria on 10 August 1915. Having enlisted as part of the recruitment drive that followed the landing at Gallipoli, and having seen the casualty lists, these were men who had offered themselves in full knowledge of their potential fate.....

In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line, allowing the British front to be advanced. The Germans, however, made selected stands to delay this advance and the 28th Battalion was involved in defeating a counter-attack at Beaumont on 23 March. The battalion subsequently missed the heavy fighting to breach the Hindenburg Line during the second battle of Bullecourt as the 8th Brigade was deployed to protect the Division's flank. The only large battle in 1917 in which the 29th Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Charles Addems was admitted to 4th London General Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, England on 20th July, 1917 with T.B.

Mr A. Addems, Mt. Gambier, South Australia was advised by Base Records on 7th August, 1917 that Private W. C. Addems had been admitted on 20th July, 1917 to 4th London General Hospital suffering from Tuberculosis.

Private William Charles Addems died at 1.10 pm on 7th August, 1917 at 4th London General Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, England from 1. Unresolved Inflammation of upper lobe right lung & 2. Operation for release of Heart Failure.

A telegram was sent from O/C 4th London General Hospital, Denmark Hill to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London on 7th August, 1917: "*No. 6701 Pte William ADDEMS 29th A.I.F. admitted here from Expeditionary Force July 20th 1917, died this afternoon. His aunt Mrs Gribble, 125 Clarendon Rd, Notting Hill W. has been notified. Will you kindly wire me name and address of next-of-kin required for purposes of registration, I will render A.F.A. 27 shortly.*"

A death for William C. Addems, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private William Charles Addems was buried at 1.30 pm on 9th August, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179,617.

From the burial report of Private William Charles Addems - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party and bugler of the Administrative Headquarters Staff A.I.F. London were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flad. The service at the graveside was conducted by Chaplain B. C. Wilson, A.I.F. Headquarters. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The coffin was borne to the grave by members of the A.I.F. Headquarters Staff, London. No relatives were present. Temporary oak cross to be erected by Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

Base Records wrote to Mr A. Addems, North Terrace, Mt. Gambier, South Australia on 22nd March, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row D Grave 9.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. D. 9. Private William Charles Addems now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A. Addems, Vansittart Park, Mt. Gambier, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 31st January, 1918 requesting "*an official intimation of death of the late No. 4702 Pte William Charles Addems 29th Battalion, A.I.F....*"

Base Records replied to Mr A. Addems on 5th February, 1918 enclosing as requested a Certificate of report of death of his son, the late No. 6702 Private W. C. Addems, 29th Battalion.

A. Addems, North Terrace, Mt. Gambier, South Australia, wrote to Base Records on 6th December, 1919 requesting the name of the Town enlisted in & the date of Embarkation regarding "*the late Private W. C. Addems, 29th Batt 4702 A.I.F.*" "*....He embarked as 22 ? Reinforcements of 14th Batt in November 1916 as date of sailing was censored at the time and I was seriously ill I could not ascertain the particulars, & require it for claims in gratuity allowances....*"

Base Records replied to Mr A. Addems on 11th December, 1919 advising that his "*son, the late No. 6702 Private W. C. Addems, 29th Battalion, enlisted in the A.I.F. at Cootamundra, N.S.W., on 1.2.16 and embarked for service abroad on 17.11.16.*"

Private William Charles Addems requested in his Will, dated 6th June, 1917, that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his father – Alfred Addems, Mt. Gambier, South Australia.

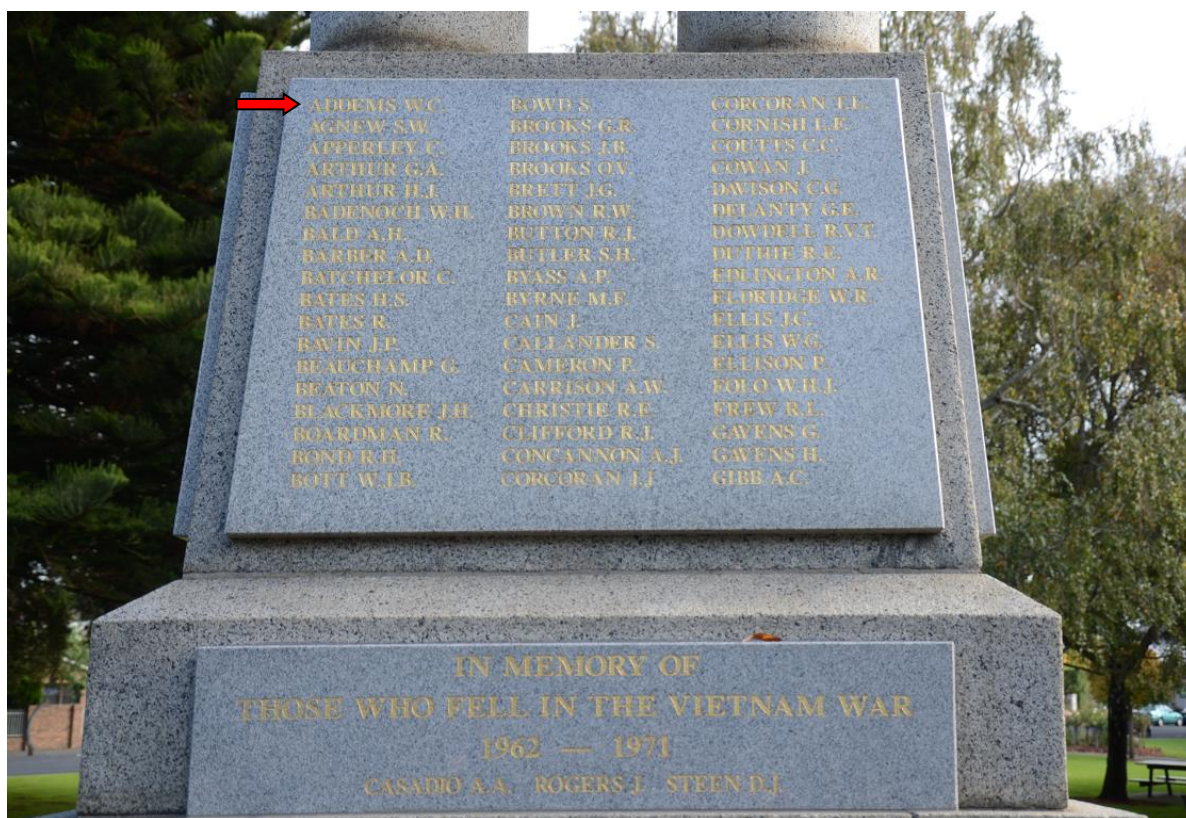
Private William Charles Addems was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Addems' father – Mr A. Addems, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Charles Addems – service number 6702, aged 26, of 29th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alfred & Elizabeth Addems.

W. C. Addems is remembered on the Mount Gambier War Memorial, located in Vansittart Park, Commercial Street West & Wehl Street North, Mount Gambier, South Australia.



Mount Gambier War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

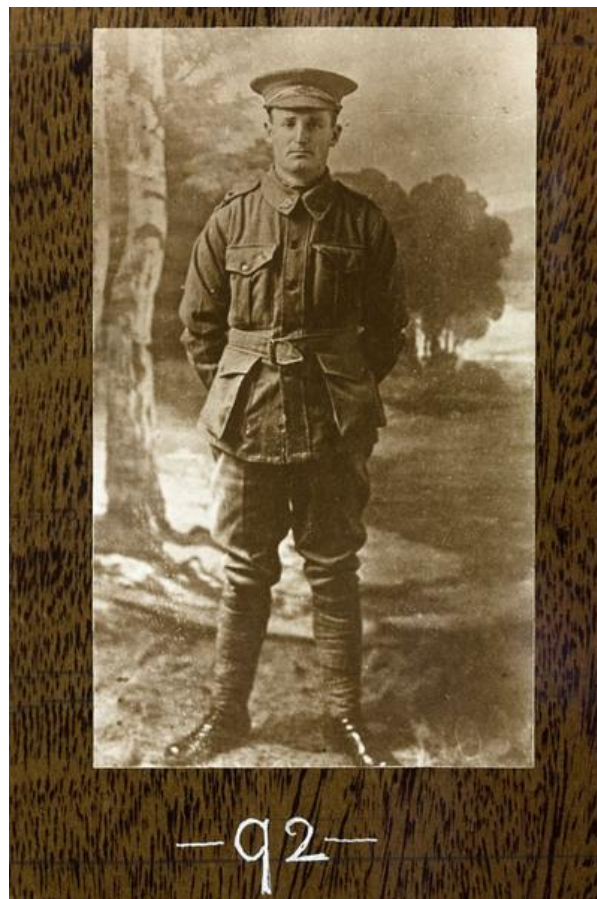


W. C. Addem's is remembered on the Knight & Cleve Pictorial Honour Rolls (Mt Gambier RSL) located at Sturt Street, Mount Gambier, South Australia.



Knight & Cleve Pictorial Honour Rolls

(Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Western Front Association Central Victorian Branch)



Private W. C. Addems is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 115.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(52 pages of Private William Charles Addems' 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 William Charles Addems (*Find a Grave – Just Jack*)



Newspaper Notices

BIOGRAPHICAL

LATE PTE W. C. ADDEMS

News has been received in Mount Gambier that Pte W. C. Addems died on August 7, at the 4th London General Hospital. The cause of death has not been stated. The deceased was a son of Mr A. Addems, of Mount Gambier.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 August, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

PRIV. W. C. ADDEMS DIED IN HOSPITAL

A telegram was received by the Ven. Archdeacon Samwell on Saturday from the Base Records Office, stating that it was officially reported that Prov. W. C. Addems, of the 29th (late 14th) Battalion, A.I.F., had died on August 7 at the 4th London General Hospital. The cause of death was not stated, and the telegram stated that enquiries as to that were being made. Priv. Addems was a son of Mr Alf. Addems, of Mount Gambier.

(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia – 15 August, 1917)

Local and District War Items

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On Saturday week Mr and Mrs Addems, of Mount Gambier, received the news that their son, Pte W. C. Addems, of the 22th (lat 14th) Battalion, had been reported ill with tuberculosis in the 4th London General Hospital. In the afternoon Archdeacon Samwell received a wire stating that he died on August 7. He was admitted into the Hospital on July 20. Pte W. C. Addems went into camp on February 1, 1916, in Sydney, and sailed for England in January, 1917. He went to France in March of this year, where he met his brother. Pte Addems has two other brothers fighting for their country in France and Egypt. Mr R. K. Addems, of Narracoorte, is a brother of the late Pte W. C. Addems.

(The Narracoorte Herald, South Australia – 21 August, 1917)

THE WAR

THE ROLL OF HONOR

333rd CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

6702 Pte WILLIAM CHARLES ADDMES, Mount Gambier (August 7, 1917)

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 28 August, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR: THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR KING AND COUNTRY

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR: THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR KING AND COUNTRY.



Private L. F. WILLIAMS



Private D. TRENBATH



Sergeant W. L. BISHOP



Lieutenant W. C. BURNELL



Private A. B. E. BURFORD



Private L. M. SMITH



Lieutenant F. W. JAMES



Private W. C. ADDEMS



Private F. E. HORN



Private J. E. PHILLIPS



Private A. HINDSHAMPS



Private R. BISHOP



Corporal H. H. VINCENT



Private R. T. BIRNIE



Private W. C. ADDEMS.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 October, 1917)

METHODIST ROLL OF HONOR

A handsomely designed roll of honor of young men who were at some time connected with the Mount Gambier Methodist Church and Sunday-school, and have enlisted to defend Australia and the Empire and civilization in the great war now proceeding in Europe, was unveiled in the church on Sunday morning by Colonel F. H. Howland, V.D. The names are in gold lettering on a large tablet of blackwood, of very tasteful Gothic design, and the whole has been executed in a most workman-like manner by Mr. G. Lewis, of this town to the order of Mrs. J. H. Nield, who presented it to the church. The names are large enough to be read from any part of the church, and the roll of honor forms a decidedly pleasing object on the centre of the northern wall. The roll now bears 57 names of young soldiers once connected with the church and Sunday-school. Of these eleven have been killed, namely, A. D. Palmer, J. M. McInerney, R. G. Lewis, W. G. Addems, R. Grove, A. R. Walker, T. W. Wright, G. Gavens, H. B. Wilson, R. V. Millhouse, and A. R. Edlington, and two have been invalided home, There is very little room left for additional names, but should more names be sent in than the tablet has space for, a leaf will be supplied. The roll is headed with these words—"For God and Mankind. Roll of Honor, 1914-16." The names follow. They were:—A. D. Palmer, W. J. Shaughnessy, J. M. McInerney, R. G. Lucas, S. L. Little, Sister E. Peters, C. A. James, E. J. Shepherd, V. A. Cram, H. R. Millhouse, A. P. Millhouse, **W. C. Addems**, P. E. Addems J. M. Talbot, A. F. Batty, R. Grove, E. Davies, A. R. Walker, T. W. Wright, H. B. Haddy, G. Gavens, H. Gavens, C. A. Crouch, Sister M. Gaden, F. A. Brown, G. E. Robinson, H. R. Wilson, R. V. Millhouse, F. Millhouse, H. B. Addems, W. Green, L. A. Talbot, H. L. Green, F. T. Roach, W. L. F. Taylor, R. W. Carr, E. J. Corbell, R. C. Cossons, A. V. J. Hut-son, G. T. Kilsby, R. H. Tilbrook, G. C. Pegler, R. C. Wilson, J. M. Hosking, W. J. Clayton, C. Harris, N. G. Taylor, H. L. Potts, R. J. Penny, A. R. Brooks, F. Sheather, A. B. Phillips, R. H. Palamountain, A. R. Edlington, S. Shepherd, J. Brammer, and N. Foord.

(*Border Watch*, Mount Gambier, South Australia – 8 October, 1918)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

ADDEMS – Pte W. C. Addems, of 29th Battalion, who died on 7th August, 1917.

(*Saturday Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 August, 1925)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

ADDEMS – Pte W. C. Addems, of 29th Battalion, who died on 7th August, 1917.

(*Saturday Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 August, 1926)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

ADDEMS – Pte W. C. Addems, of 29th Battalion, who died on 7th August, 1917.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 August, 1927)

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

ADDEMS – Pte W. C. Addems, of 29th Battalion, who died on 7th August, 1917.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 August, 1928)

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 W. C. Addems does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Gave His Life For King And Country

Resting In God

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private W. C. Addem's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

