

**All Saints Churchyard Extension,
Orpington, Kent, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



19615 BOMBARDIER

J. A. ARMSTRONG

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

1ST JANUARY, 1918 Age 37

He Kept The Faith

John Andrewartha ARMSTRONG

John Andrewartha Goldsmith Armstrong was born at Kyneton, Victoria on 29th August, 1880 to parents John Andrewartha Armstrong (Solicitor) & Amelia Mary Armstrong (nee Flynn).

The 1903 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Canterbury, Victoria, listed John Andrewartha Armstrong, Clerk, from Hawthorn Road, Caulfield.

The 1905 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Caulfield, Victoria, listed John Andrewartha Armstrong, Clerk, from Hawthorn Road, Caulfield.

John Andrewartha Goldsmith Armstrong married Catherine Emily Rich on 17th August, 1906 at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Dandenong Road, Caulfield, Victoria.

A daughter – Mary Tait Armstrong (name, date & details as recorded in Divorce Records; however she is referred to as Molly Armstrong on Family Trees on Ancestry) was born on 27th October, 1906 in Newcastle, NSW to parents John Andrewartha Armstrong & Catherine Armstrong.

John Andrewartha Goldsmith Armstrong & Catherine Emily Armstrong were divorced in 1910.

Newspaper item - *The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria - Sat 14 May 1910:

DIVORCE COURT.

FRIDAY, May 13

(Before Mr Justice Cussen.)

PARTING AT THE CHURCH.

Catherine Amy Armstrong, aged 24, of Hawthorn road, Caulfield sued for a dissolution of her marriage with John Andrewartha Goldsmith Armstrong, aged 29, on the ground of desertion. Mr Woolf instructed by Mr W.H Walker, appeared for Mrs Armstrong. The parties were married on August 17, 1906 and there was one child of the marriage. After the ceremony husband and wife parted at the church door and never lived together. The husband at first promised that he would make a home for her, but afterwards he declined to do so and when pressed later on he said angrily "I am not going to make a home for you I told you that before and let this be the end of it." Mr Justice Cussen said it was an unfortunate thing for the wife to be treated as she had been. He made an order nisi, with costs, and the custody of the child.

The 1909 & 1912 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Balaclava, subdivision of Caulfield, Victoria, John Andrewartha Armstrong, Clerk, from Hawthorn Road, Caulfield.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Henty, subdivision of Caulfield, Victoria, listed John Andrewartha Armstrong, Clerk, from Hawthorn Road, Caulfield.

John Andrewartha Armstrong married Leonie Spangler in 1915 in Victoria.

John Andrewartha Armstrong was a 35 year old, married (no children - as listed on Attestation Papers), Senior Clerk from "Arra Glen", Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, Victoria when he enlisted at Prahran, Melbourne, Victoria on 24th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs L. Armstrong, "Arra Glen", Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, Victoria.

Private John Andrewartha Armstrong was posted to Sturt St for recruit training. He was transferred to F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) Reinforcements as Gunner from 14th February, 1916. Gunner Armstrong was transferred to 8th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade), 29th Battery as provisional Bombardier from 1st April, 1916.

Gunner (rank as per Embarkation Roll) John Andrewartha Armstrong, Service number 19615, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 20th May, 1916 with the 8th Field Artillery Brigade, 29th Battery & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th July, 1916.

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.

Provisional Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong was promoted to Bombardier from 6th October, 1916 with 8th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) while in England.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong was sent to Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire on 18th December, 1916 with Bronchitis then transferred to Military Hospital, Fargo, Wiltshire on 20th December, 1916. He rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 26th December, 1916.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 30th December, 1917 & arrived in France on the same day. He was sent sick to 2nd General Hospital at Havre, France on 31st December, 1916 & was transferred to England on 13th January, 1917 with Pleurisy.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong was admitted to Bath War Hospital, Combe Park, England on 14th January, 1917 with Pleurisy – severe. He was transferred to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 26th February, 1917 with Influenza. Bombardier Armstrong was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 19th March, 1917. (Note: The Medical Transfer Certificate recorded that Bombardier J. A. Armstrong had been admitted to Bath War Hospital on 14th January, 1917 & was transferred to Australian Military Hospital, Weymouth on 19th March, 1917 – “*Debility after Pleurisy at France*” on December 30th, 1916.) Bombardier Armstrong was medically classified as A3 – fit for active service on 24th April, 1917.

Mrs L. Armstrong, Arraglen, Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, Victoria, wife of Bombardier Armstrong, was advised by Base Records on 24th January, 1917 that No. 19615 Bombardier J. A. Armstrong, had been admitted to Bath War Hospital on 14th January, 1917 suffering from Pleurisy – severe. She was advised on 8th February, 1917 that Bombardier J. A. Armstrong was progressing favourably & notified on 14th February, 1917 that he was still progressing favourably.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong was marched in to Hardening & Drafting Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 27th April, 1917 from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth. He was marched out to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 14th May, 1917 from Perham Downs.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong was marched out to R.B.A.A. at Bulford (as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service however report later stated “Details at Boyton”), Wiltshire on 13th June, 1917. He was marched out from Details at Boyton on 9th July, 1917 & was marched in to R.B.A.A. at Larkhill on the same day.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 8th August, 1917. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 9th August, 1917. Bombardier Armstrong was marched out from A.G.B.D. on 3rd September, 1917 to join 3rd Divisional Artillery. He rejoined 8th F.A.B. in the Field on 8th September, 1917.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong was wounded in action in France on 19th September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) then transferred to 17th Casualty Clearing Station on 19th September, 1917. Bombardier Armstrong was transferred to Ambulance Train 33 & he was admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux on 20th September, 1917 with Shrapnel wound/s to foot. He embarked for England on 22nd September, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong was admitted to Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, England on 22nd September, 1917 with G.S.W. to left Foot. He was reported to be dangerously ill on 14th October, 1917 with left Foot amputated.

Mrs L. Armstrong, “Arraglen”, Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 2nd October, 1917 that Bombardier J. A. Armstrong had been admitted to Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, England on 22nd September, 1917 suffering from gunshot wound to left Foot. She was advised on 26th October, 1917 that Bombardier J. A. Armstrong was seriously ill.

Base Records advised Mrs L. Armstrong on 3rd November, 1917 that Bombardier John Armstrong was dangerously ill – Gas gangrene to left Leg. She was advised on 23rd November, 1917 that Bombardier J. A. Armstrong’s condition was improving.

On 2nd December, 1917 Mrs L. Armstrong received advice from Base Records that Bombardier J. A. Armstrong was pronounced out of danger & on 3rd December, 1917 she was advised that Bombardier J. A. Armstrong's condition was improving. Base Records advised Mrs L. Armstrong on 5th December, 1917 that Bombardier J. A. Armstrong's condition was slightly improved. Mrs L. Armstrong was advised by Base Records on 17th December, 1917 that Bombardier J. A. Armstrong was progressing favourably.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong died at 9 am on 1st January, 1918 at Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Left Foot (amputated) & Meningitis Streptococcic.

A death for John A. Armstrong, aged 37, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Bromley, Kent, England.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong was buried at 2 pm on 4th January, 1918 in Orpington Churchyard, Orpington, England – Grave No. 3 Row "E" Soldiers Plot.

From the burial report of Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong - Coffin was good. Polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack. Firing Party, and Bugler were supplied by the Kensington Rifles stationed at Orpington. Pallbearers were supplied by the R.A.M.C. staff of the Canadian Military Hospital, Orpington. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by friends of the deceased. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Roman Catholic Chapel at the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Names & addresses of relatives & friends present at the Funeral – Miss O'Donnell, 378 Finchley Rd, London & Miss Mackinnon, 26 Linden Gardens, London – friends

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong's burial place is now listed by CWGC as All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England – Plot number E. 5. and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission

A War Pension was granted to Leonie Armstrong, widow of the late Bombardier J. A. Armstrong, 19615, 8th Field, Artillery, in the sum of £2/9 per fortnight from 4th March, 1918.

An enquiry was made to Base Records on 7th March, 1918 from Messrs Major & Armstrong, Solicitors, 26 Market Street, Melbourne, Victoria, requesting a Certificate of Death, in duplicate, in regards to Bombardier J. A. G. Armstrong, 8th Field Artillery Brigade.

Base Records replied to Messrs Major & Armstrong, Solicitors, on 11th March, 1918 with the following: *"...I have to inform you that the necessary official confirming documents covering the report of death of No. 19615 Bombdr J. A. Armstrong, 8th Field Artillery Brigade, have not yet been received from abroad. Your request, however, has been noted for compliance at the earliest possible date."*

Base Records replied to Messrs Major & Armstrong, Solicitors, on 22nd March, 1918: *"Referring to my letter dated 11th instant, in reply to your personal request, I am now forwarding herewith Certificate of report of death of the late No. 19615 Bombardier J. A. Armstrong, 8th Field Artillery Brigade."*

Leonie Armstrong, 10 Tollington Avenue, East Malvern, wrote to Base Records on 4th January, 1920 with the following: "Re the paragraph in the paper last week about the plaque and scroll to be issued to the next-of-kin I am writing to say my address is now the above. My late husband was No. 19615 Bdr J. A. Armstrong, 29th Battery, 8th F.A.B.

Communications from Base Records addressed to Mrs L. Armstrong, 10 Tollington Avenue, East Malvern, in February, 1922, were returned to Base Records as *"Unclaimed at Caulfield East"* & *"Not Known by Letter Carrier Caulfield East."*

A handwritten note in the Service Record file for Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong reads: "*Kings Message, Scroll and Brochure returned.*"

A notice was prepared for the Press on 10th March, 1922 to enquire for the address of Mrs L, Armstrong, next of kin of the late Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong.

The Enquiry Counter, Base Records took details of a change of address on 27th March, 1922 for Mrs L. Armstrong "Yarralla", Hedley Avenue, E. Malvern.

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. (British War Medal signed for on 2nd January, 1924. Victory Medal signed for on 20th March, 1923.) A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Bombardier Armstrong's widow – Mrs L. Armstrong, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922; returned & called for in March, 1922. The Plaque was sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong – service number 19615, aged 37, of 8th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of John Andrewartha & Amelia Armstrong; husband of Leonie Armstrong, of "Hellier", 10 Tollington Avenue, East Malvern, Victoria.

Bombardier J. A. Armstrong is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 15.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



J. A. Armstrong is remembered on the Caulfield Memorial Stone, located in Caulfield Park, Hawthorn & Balaclava Roads, Caulfield North, Victoria.



Caulfield Memorial Stone (Photo above from Monument Australia; below from Heritage Council Victoria)



J. A. Armstrong is remembered on the City of Caulfield Honor Roll - Panel 1 (also referred to as Glen Eira Honour Roll Boards), located In Glen Eira City Hall, Glen Eira & Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield, Victoria. The honour roll commemorates those who served in World War One. It was prepared and hung in the vestibule of the Town Hall in 1915 & consists of 31 panels.



City of Caulfield Honor Roll (Photo from Victorian Collections)

City of Caulfield Honor Roll / Erected to the honor of the living and the glory / of the dead who served in the Great War 1914-1919

Name	Panel	Name	Panel
Aitken. H.	Panel 1	Ball. G.	Panel 2
Alexander. H. J.	Panel 1	Barber. S. W.	Panel 2
Algie. C.W.	Panel 1	Barber. V. H.	Panel 2
Allan. A. G.	Panel 1	Barbeta. A. J.	Panel 2
Allan. E. B.	Panel 1	Barbeta. A. L.	Panel 2
Allan. F.	Panel 1	Barclay D. G.	Panel 2
Allan. G. F.	Panel 1	Barclay R. S.	Panel 2
Allan. H.	Panel 1	Barlow. W. G.	Panel 2
Allan. P. J.	Panel 1	Barnes. E. F.	Panel 2
Allardyce. A. G.	Panel 1	Barnett. G. W.	Panel 2
Allen. C. E.	Panel 1	Barr. G. H.	Panel 2
Allison. J. W.	Panel 1	Barr. L. G.	Panel 2
Ames. B.	Panel 1	Barratt. R. F.	Panel 2
Anderson. A. S.	Panel 1	Barrett. L. H.	Panel 2
Anderson. C. R.	Panel 1	Barrow. E. F.	Panel 2
Anderson. F. K.	Panel 1	Barrow. G. E.	Panel 2
Anderson. G.	Panel 1	Bartleman. H. C.	Panel 2
Anderson. G.	Panel 1	Bartlett. T. F.	Panel 2
Anderson. H. D.	Panel 1	Barton. C. R.	Panel 2
Anderson. J.	Panel 1	Bastings. E.	Panel 2
Anderson. J. E.	Panel 1	Bateman. D. T.	Panel 2
Anderson. L.	Panel 1	Batten. E. J.	Panel 2
Anderson. W. J.	Panel 1	Baundon. H. A.	Panel 2
Anderson. W. W.	Panel 1	Bayless. C.	Panel 2
Andrews. W.	Panel 1	Bayston. W. H.	Panel 2
Angus. L. S.	Panel 1	Beard. C. W.	Panel 2
Angwin. E. J.	Panel 1	Beard. L. C. E.	Panel 2
Angwin. G. H.	Panel 1	Beath. T. H.	Panel 2
Angwin. J. L.	Panel 1	Beeston. D.	Panel 2
Angwin. J. S.	Panel 1	Beeston. S. C. E.	Panel 2
Annear. P. D.	Panel 1	Begbie. A. H.	Panel 2
Aram. C. T. H.	Panel 1	Begbie. B. J.	Panel 2
Argall. W.D.	Panel 1	Begbie. C. S.	Panel 2
Armstrong. C. S.	Panel 1	Begbie. P.	Panel 2
Armstrong. E.	Panel 1	Bell. G. H.	Panel 2
Armstrong. J. A.	Panel 1	Bell. I.	Panel 2
Armstrong. S. J. W.	Panel 1	Bell. J. W.	Panel 2
Armstrong. T. G.	Panel 1	Bell. R. A.	Panel 2
Arthur. C. E. P.	Panel 1	Bell. T. R.	Panel 2





City of Caulfield Honor Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



(94 pages of Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong'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





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H05582

Bombardier John Andrewartha Armstrong



Newspaper Notices

THE 270th CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:-

ILL

Bombardier J. A. Armstrong, Caulfield

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 7 February, 1917)

PERSONAL

The 270th Casualty Lists includes the names of; while Bdr J. A. Armstrong, Caulfield; and Captain F. L. Nance, St. Kilda, are reported to be seriously ill.

(The Prahran Telegraph, Victoria – 10 February, 1917)

THE 342nd CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:-

WOUNDED

Bmdr. J. A. Armstrong, Caulfield

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 20 October, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

ARMSTRONG, Bombr. I.A.A. – On the 1st January, son of I.A. and A.M. Armstrong, Caulfield, from wounds received in Flanders.

ARMSTRONG, Bombr. I.A.A. – On the 1st January, from wounds received in Flanders, brother of Warwick and Tom.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 January, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

ARMSTRONG – On the 1st January, at Ontario Military Hospital, England, Bombardier John A., dearly loved husband of Leonie, Caulfield.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 January, 1918)

THE 380th CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:-

DIED OF WOUNDS

Bomb. J. A. Armstrong, Caulfield

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 23 January, 1918)

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)

Bombardier J. A. Armstrong has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

He Kept The Faith

All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England

During the First World War, the Ontario Hospital was at Orpington from February 1916 to September 1917, when it became No 16 Canadian General Hospital. The hospital closed in September 1919. The hospital made a number of burials in a section of the extension to Orpington (All Saints) Churchyard, which was for many years known as Ontario Cemetery. This Extension contains 116 burials, 88 of which are Canadian. The extension as a whole contains 129 First World War burials and another 14 from the Second World War. The Commission also cares for 70 non-war service graves in the extension.

(Information from CWGC)





All Saints Churchyard (left) & Extension (right), Orpington (*Google Street view*)



All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington (*Photos from Find a Grave – Mark Hornsby*)





(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Bombardier J. A. Armstrong's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England.



(Photo – Find a Grave - darealjolo)