

**Warrington Cemetery,  
Warrington, Cheshire/Lancashire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1303 PRIVATE**

**J. ARMSTRONG**

**51ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**23RD JANUARY, 1918 Age 42**

*Until The Day Dawns*

*My Beloved*

*Thy Will Be Done*

## John Thomas (Jack) ARMSTRONG

John Thomas Armstrong was born at Yarra Glen, Victoria in 1876 to parents John Thomas Armstrong and Georgina Wharton Armstrong (nee Hirst).

John Thomas Armstrong attended Yarra Glen State School, Victoria.

John Thomas Armstrong married Helena Gertrude Phillips in 1900 in Victoria.

Jack Armstrong was a 39 year old, married, Labourer from 237 Canning Street, Carlton, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 3rd August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1303 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Helena Armstrong, 237 Canning Street, Carlton, Victoria.

Private Jack Armstrong was posted to "B" Company, 10th Depot Battalion on 3rd August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to Light Horse at Seymour on 12th October, 1915 then transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 13th Light Horse on 5th November, 1915.

Private Jack Armstrong embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 23rd November, 1915 with the 4th Light Horse Brigade, 13th Light Horse Regiment, 7th Reinforcements.

Private Jack Armstrong was posted to Headquarters 13th Light Horse on 16th March, 1916.

Private Jack Armstrong was transferred to 1st Light Horse Training Regiment at Tel-el-Kebir on 17th April, 1916.

Private Jack Armstrong was transferred to 51st Battalion on 20th May, 1916 from 1st Light Horse Training Regiment.

Private Jack Armstrong proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on *Ivernia* on 5th June, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 12th June, 1916.

Private Jack Armstrong was attached to 4th Australian Divisional Infantry School in France from 3rd December, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 24th April, 1917.

Private Jack Armstrong was detached for duty with Divisional Pack Troop on 2nd June, 1917. He rejoined his Unit in the field on 13th June, 1917.

Private Jack Armstrong was sent sick to Hospital on 28th July, 1917. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 28th July, 1917 with Carbuncle then transferred & admitted to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station on 19th August, 1917. Pte Armstrong was transferred & admitted to 3rd General Hospital at Le Treport on 20th August, 1917. He embarked for England on the Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle* on 25th August, 1917 with Melancholia.

Private Jack Armstrong was admitted to Neurological Section, Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England on 26th August, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form reads: "*On admission to Netley patient was melancholic. Knee jerks exaggerated. General depression and fixed idea of getting home to Australia, There is no doubt that he is never likely to be fit for service and he appear to have been with the Australians ever since the landing at Gallipoli. Transferred to \_\_\_\_\_ (Australian Hospital crossed out) for disposal.*"

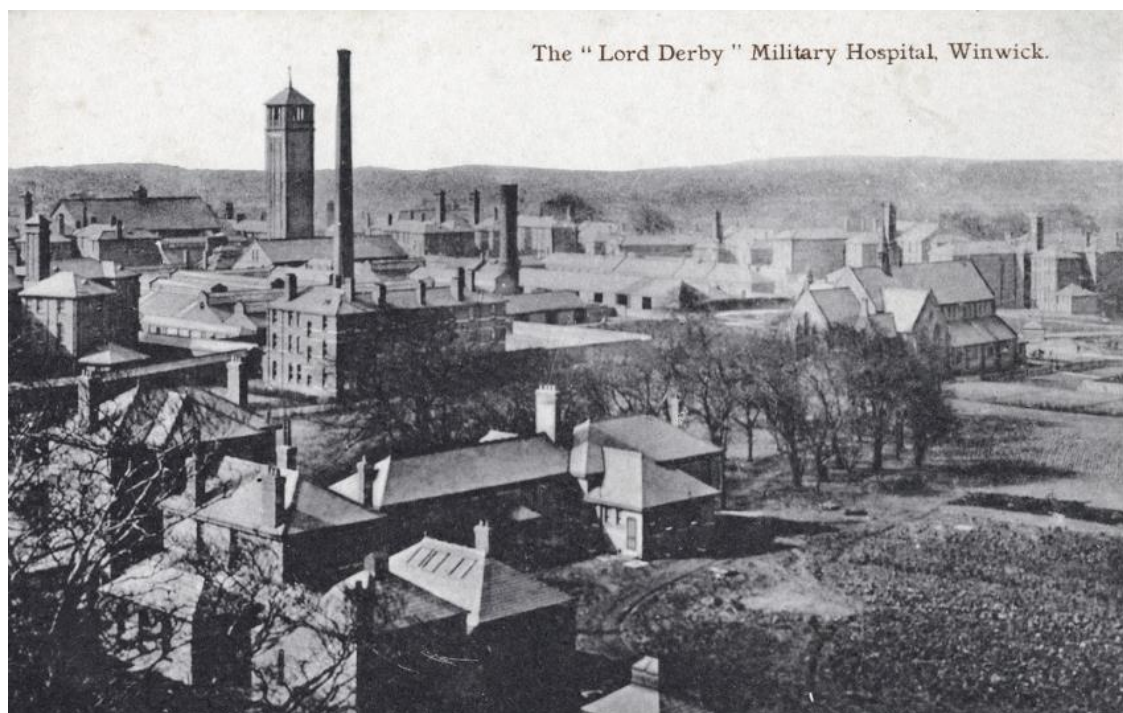
Private Jack Armstrong was admitted to The Lord Derby's War Hospital, Winwick, Warrington, England on 3rd September, 1917.

*Winwick Asylum, which opened in 1902, was home to over 2,000 patients when the First World War broke out. In 1915 the asylum and hospital were requisitioned as a military hospital and renamed the Lord Derby War Hospital. It has been estimated that between 1915 and 1920 this hospital treated approximately 56,000 injured soldiers. The hospital was portrayed as one of the largest in the country; a haven of rest with its large grounds and a staff of over 600 to care for the patients.*

*The Lord Derby War Hospital treated severe shell shock cases and experimented with 'electrical treatment'.*

A Medical Report was completed on Pte Jack Armstrong on 9th September, 1917 at the Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, England. His disability was recorded as General Paralysis of Insane. The report stated that the disability occurred in August, 1917 in France. His medical history was listed as "*Wounded at Gallipoli in Hospital at Malta then from Egypt to France. 23.8.17 – Admitted to No. 3 Gen. Hos. noted "Is dull, depressed and neurathenic but seems to be improving". 30.8.17 – Admitted to Netley D Block noted as "confused in conversation and is exalted regarding money, memory defective etc."* The Medical Report listed their cause of the disability as Active Service & Syphilis & caused by the stress of campaign. Pte Armstrong's present condition was listed as "*silly, self-satisfied look with really little expression. Is childishly exalted, says he has not been depressed, memory is defective. Is generally confused as to his history and his statements are quite unreliable. Says he has thousands of pounds, there is a lot of money in Australia, anyone can get money and there is no need to work there, Looks more than the age he gives. He denies syphilis but there are some glands in groin. Speech markedly slurring-tongue tremors. Pupils small and sluggish."*

The Medical Board recommended Private Jack Armstrong for repatriation to Australia, dated 11th September, 1917.



Private Jack Armstrong died at 8.15 pm on 23rd January, 1918 at The Lord Derby's War Hospital, Winwick, Warrington, England from "General Paralysis of the Insane". Mrs H. Armstrong widow of the late Private Jack Armstrong was advised in a letter dated 17th April, 1918 that her husband had died of "General Paralysis".

A death for Jack Armstrong, aged 42, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warrington, Lancashire, England.

Private Jack Armstrong was buried on 26th January, 1918 in Warrington Cemetery (Manchester Road), Warrington, Cheshire, England – Plot number C. CE. 802 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte J. Armstrong - *The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag. Pallbearers were supplied by R.A.M.C. from the War Hospital Authorities, Winwick, Warrington. The War Hospital, Warrington, was represented at the funeral by an Officer. The grave will be turfed immediately an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Base Records contacted the Department of Repatriation & then the Postmaster, Post Office, Fitzroy, Victoria in 1924 trying to find the address of the widow of the late Private Jack Armstrong. Mrs Helen Armstrong had lived at 76 Kerr Street, Fitzroy then 40 Princes Street, Fitzroy & communications to her from Base Records had been returned unclaimed. Another address was listed for Mrs Armstrong at 50 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, Victoria.

Private Jack Armstrong was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Armstrong's widow - Mrs H. Armstrong, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

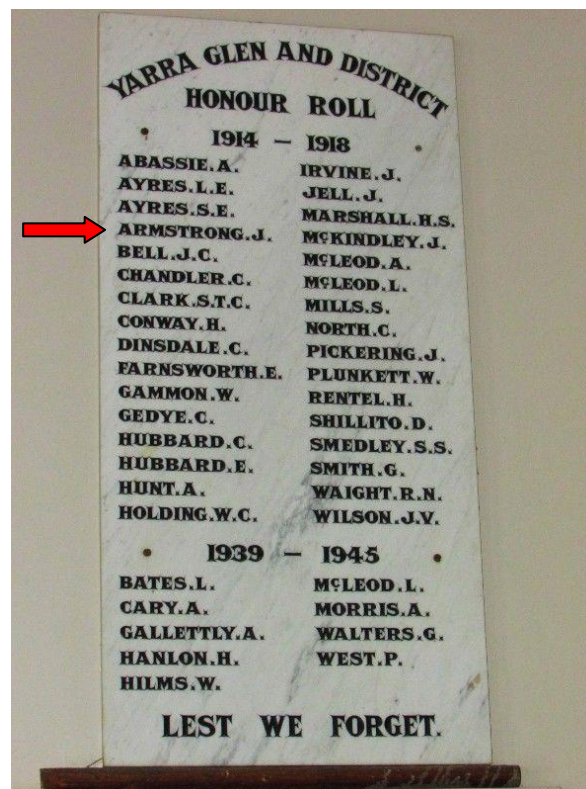
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Jack Armstrong – service number 1303, aged 42, of 51st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John Thomas Armstrong and Georgina Armstrong; husband of Helen Gertrude Armstrong, of 40 Princes St., Fitzroy, Victoria.

Private J. T. 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 152.



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

J. Armstrong is remembered on the Yarra Glen & District Honour Roll, located in the Memorial Hall, Melba Highway & Anzac Avenue, Yarra Glen, Victoria.



**Yarra Glen & District Honour Roll** (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

J. Armstrong is remembered on the Yarra Glen War Memorial, located outside Memorial Hall, Melba Highway & Anzac Avenue, Yarra Glen, Victoria.



Yarra Glen War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Brown)



J. Armstrong is remembered on the Avenue of Honour Plaque, located at Bell Street & Anzac Avenue, Yarra Glen, Victoria. The plaque was unveiled in 2010 & dedicates the Avenue of Honour to the men of the 1st Australian Imperial Force who volunteered to serve in World War One.

On Sunday 2 May 1948 a Commemoration Service was conducted by the Yarra Glen & District Tourist and Progress Association and the RSSILA at which the avenue of oak trees was dedicated as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the two world wars. The trees were donated by Major E. Lang. The street was re-named ANZAC Avenue at some time between 1948 and 1968.

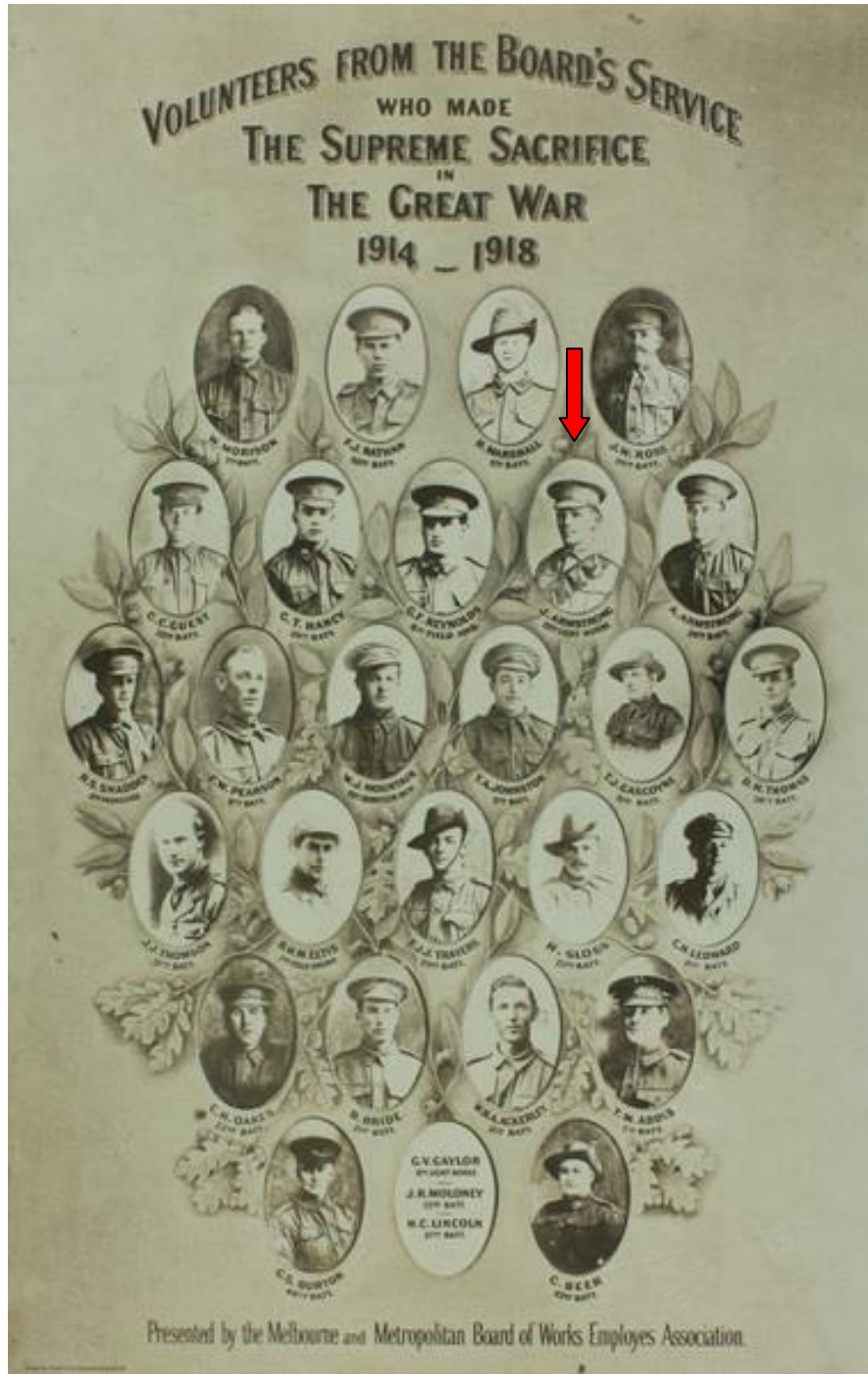
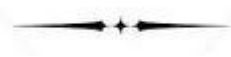


Yarra Glen Avenue of Honour (Photo above from VHD & below from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)



(70 pages of Private Jack 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



**Metropolitan Board of Works Employees Roll of Honour**

*(Photo from VWMA- with thanks to Evan Evans)*



Private J. Armstrong



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **THE 382nd CASUALTY LIST**

The Victorian names are:-

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Private J. Armstrong, Fitzroy

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 13 February, 1918)*

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#### **DIED ON SERVICE**

ARMSTRONG – On the 23rd January, 1918, somewhere in France, John Thomas (Jack), beloved only son of the late Thomas Armstrong, Yarra Glen, and loved brother of Mrs Livy (Box Hill), Mrs Tunks (Collingwood) and Kitty (Yarra Glen).

Dear Jack at rest.

-(Inserted by his loving sister, Kitty Armstrong)

*(The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 February, 1918)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

ARMSTRONG – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private Jack Armstrong, who died in Lord Derby Hospital, England, on 23rd January, 1918.

-Inserted by his sister and brother-in-law, Nina and Frank Levy.

ARMSTRONG – In loving memory of my dear uncle, Jack, who died in Lord Derby Hospital, England, on 23rd January, 1918.

-Inserted by his nephews, Frank, Alan, Tom and little Jack Livy.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 January, 1919)

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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. 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 27th June, 1921, to Mrs H. Armstrong, widow of the late Private J. Armstrong, 51st Battalion, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private J. Armstrong does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Until The Day Dawns My Beloved Thy Will Be Done*

## **Warrington Cemetery, Warrington, Cheshire, England**

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Warrington was the depot for the South Lancashire Regiment for both wars and was home to the Lord Derby War Hospital and White Cross Auxiliary Hospital during the First World War. During the Second World War, a shore establishment of the Fleet Air Arm was stationed there. Warrington Cemetery contains 199 First World War burials, 74 of them in a war graves plot with a Cross of Sacrifice. The 102 Second World War burials are scattered. A Polish airman is also buried in the cemetery.

*(Information from CWGC)*

There are 8 WW1 Australian Soldiers & 1 Australian War Worker buried in Warrington Cemetery, Cheshire, England.



**Cross of Sacrifice & War Graves in Warrington Cemetery** *(Photo by David Dixon)*

Photo of Private J. Armstrong's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Warrington Cemetery, Warrington, Cheshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Len Scott)

