

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



6729 PRIVATE

A. J. BROWN

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 25

*Oh Could We Have Had
One Look At His Dear Face
God's Will Be Done*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. J. Brown is located in Grave Plot # 183
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Arthur John BROWN

Arthur John Brown was born in 1890 at Dalby, Queensland to parents William & Kate Brown (nee Howe).

Arthur John Brown was a 25 year old, single, Stockman from Toowoomba, Queensland when he enlisted on 10th February, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6729 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Kate Brown, Racecourse, Dalby, Queensland.

Pte Arthur John Brown embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 27th October, 1916. On 15th December, 1916 Pte Brown was written up for being Absent without Leave from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on that date. He was awarded punishment of 1 days' pay forfeiture. Pte Brown disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th 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.

Pte Arthur John Brown had been attached to 3rd Training Battalion at No. 3 Durrington Camp, Durrington. He was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 1st February, 1917.

Pte Arthur John Brown died at 8.15 a.m. of Pneumonia on 7th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital.

A death for Arthur J. Brown, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Arthur John Brown was buried at Durrington Cemetery – plot number 183 on 12th February, 1917.

Private A. J. Brown is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. J. Brown is also remembered on the Roll of Honour of the Men who enlisted from Dalby located at Dalby RSL Memorial Club, Drayton Street, Dalby, Queensland.



Dalby Roll of Honour (Photos by Shirley and Trevor McIvor)



Arthur J. Brown is also remembered on the St. John's Anglican Church Honour Board located at St. Johns Anglican Church, 153 Cunningham Street, Dalby.



St. John's Anglican Church Honour Board, Dalby

(Photo by Queensland War Memorial Register)

Pte Arthur John Brown was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Brown's father – Mr William Brown of Bagot St, Dalby, Queensland (July, 1921 & February, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur John Brown – service number 6729 as being 25 years old & served with 9th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Kate Brown of Bagot St, Dalby, Queensland.

(45 pages of Pte Arthur John Brown's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



* Two of Pte Arthur John Brown's first cousins were killed during World War 1 – both from Dalby, Queensland.

- Sergeant Claudius Norman Carstens (149) – Killed In Action 14th June, 1917 in France. Buried in Pont-De-Nieppe Communal Cemetery.
- Lance Corporal Walter Carstens (3186) – Killed in Action 26th September, 1917 in Belgium. Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.



Newspaper Reports

THE WAR – AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES LIST No 373

DIED OF ILLNESS

A. J. Brown, Dalby, 7/2/17

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland Saturday 24 February, 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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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*)

Pte A. J. Brown does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Oh Could We Have Had One Look At His Dear Face God's Will Be Done



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Dave Healing 2013)

Photo of Pte A. J. Brown's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)