

**Willesden New Cemetery,  
Willesden, Greater London**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**247 PRIVATE**

**W. J. CLARK**

**16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**10TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 25**

*In Loving Memory Of  
The Dear Husband And Dadda  
Of Eva and Kenneth*

## William John CLARK

William John Clark was born on 12th September, 1892 at Guildford, Western Australia to parents William John & Ellen Jane Clark (nee Newman).

William John Clark (Snr), father of William John Clark, died in 1893 in Western Australia.

Ellen Jane Clark, mother of William John Clark, remarried in 1894 in Guildford, Western Australia to Thomas Pollard.

William John Clark attended Guildford Primary School, Western Australia.

William John Clark was a 22 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill Camp, Western Australia on 7th September, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs T. Pollard, Helena Street, Guildford, Western Australia.

William John Clark was posted to 16th Infantry Battalion as Private on 7th September, 1914 for recruit training. He was promoted to Corporal on 1st November, 1914.

Corporal William John Clark, Service number 247, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic* (A40) on 22nd December, 1914 with the 16th Infantry Battalion "D" Company.

Corporal William John Clark proceeded to join the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 12th April, 1915.

Corporal William John Clark was wounded at Gallipoli Peninsula on 2nd May, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Gascon* from Gallipoli Peninsula with gunshot wounds to left shoulder on 3rd May, 1915 for Alexandria.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Mrs T. Pollard, mother of Corporal William John Clark, was advised on 24th May, 1915 that her son had been wounded.

Corporal William John Clark was transferred from Shebin el Kom Hospital to Convalescent Camp at Mustapha on 4th June, 1915. He was reported still at Convalescent Camp at Mustapha on 29th June, 1915 – awaiting Transport to rejoin his Unit.

Corporal William John Clark was "discharged 42 Divn" at Mustapha on 18th July, 1915.

Corporal William John Clark was reported "Not with Unit" at Serapeum. (date entered on Casualty Form – Active Service 2/4/16)

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Corporal William John Clark was on strength at Australian Depot Stores at Ghezireh on 28th June, 1916 (?). He was to be transferred to London on 22nd July, 1916. Corporal Clark embarked on *Royal George* from Alexandria on 3rd September, 1916 to be Storeman with Australian Depot Stores.

Corporal William John Clark was marched in to Details Coy. No. 3 Camp at Park House, Wiltshire on 18th September, 1916 from Egypt.

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.

Corporal William John Clark was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire from No. 3 Camp at Park House on 4th October, 1916.

Corporal William John Clark was admitted to Sutton Veny Hospital, Wiltshire from Codford on 22nd October, 1916 with Mumps. He was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford from Hospital on 15th January, 1917.

Corporal William John Clark was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 16th January, 1917.

Corporal William John Clark qualified 2nd Class at the 7th Rifle Course held at the School of Musketry, Tidworth, Wiltshire from 29th January, 1917 to 21st February, 1917 & passed as having a fair knowledge of the Lewis Gun.

Corporal William John Clark proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from 4th Training Battalion on 9th July, 1917. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 10th July, 1917. Corporal Clark was marched out from 4th A.D.B.D. on 25th July, 1917 to join his Battalion. He rejoined his Battalion in the field on 27th July, 1917.

Corporal William John Clark reverted to the rank of Private on 11th August, 1917 at his own request.

Private William John Clark was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 16th August, 1917. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance with Shrapnel wounds to Thorax. Private Clark was transferred on 17th August, 1917 (\*date as per Casualty Form – Active Service) & admitted to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 16th August, 1917. Private Clark was transferred to Ambulance Train 15 on 26th August, 1917 & admitted to 57th General Hospital with gunshot wounds to thorax & right abdomen. He was transferred to England on 6th September, 1917.

## **16th Battalion**

The 16th Battalion AIF was raised from 16 September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia, and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The South Australian and Western Australian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked for overseas on Boxing Day. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an AIF division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

A week after the landing the 16th was thrown into the attack on Bloody Angle suffering many casualties. From May to August the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead, and in August the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost, although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

The battalion spent much of 1917 in Belgium advancing to the Hindenburg Line. The battalion, along with most of the 4th Brigade, suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April, when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private William John Clark was admitted to Kitchener's Military Hospital at Brighton, Sussex, England on 7th September, 1917 with Shrapnel wounds to left Heel Thorax – Severe. The Hospital admission form records shrapnel wounds to "*thorax, abdomen buttocks penetrating thorax & abdomen & injury to nerve sciatic.*" Private Clark was X-rayed on 16th September, 1917 – left ankle & left thigh. He was x-rayed again on 25th September, 1917 – left thigh.

Mrs T. Pollard, mother of Corporal William John Clark, was advised on 17th September, 1917 that her son had been wounded & admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, England.

A marriage was registered in district of Brighton, Sussex, England in the December quarter, 1917 between William J. Clark & Eva K. Dore.

Private William John Clark was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent on 12th November, 1917. He was discharged to Depot at Hurdcott on 16th November, 1917

Private William John Clark was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 16th November, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 b on 11th December, 1917.

Private William John Clark was sent sick to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 8th January, 1918 with Gallstone. He was admitted the next day with Intestinal obstruction. The Medical Case Sheet reports "*This man stated that in August last he had laparotomy performed for G.S.W buttocks & pelvis. He was taken suddenly ill on Jan' 7. 18 whilst in bed with great pain in abdomen and vomiting. This had got worse until admission on Jan' 9. 18. He was then very ill indeed with much distension of the abdomen continual vomiting, running pulse etc. He was operated on at once. About three inches of the sigmoid flexure were found to be black & completely rotten. There was no means of freeing this so Paul's tube was tied in the bowel. Patient never rallied and died at 6 am Jan 10.18.*"

Private William John Clark died at 6 am on 10th January, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Intestinal Obstruction.

A telegram was sent from Commanding Officer, Military Hospital Fovant to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. to advise that Private William John Clark, 16th Battalion had "*died in this Hospital this morning AAA Next of Kin Mrs CLARK (wife) 45 Hex Road Willesden London at present living at Nash Farm Cottage Compton Chamberlain Wilts makes application for removal of body for burial at Willesden Green Cemetery London at an early date.... be issued in this case please death attributable to active service.*"

A death for William J. Clark, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private William John Clark was buried at 3 pm on 17th January, 1918 in Willesden New Cemetery, Willesden, Greater London, England – Plot number K. 672 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private William John Clark - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Party being supplied by Headquarters A.I.F. London, and Bearers by comrades of the deceased. Gun Carriage was supplied by London Command. A service was conducted in the Cemetery Chapel and at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. Tugwell, (C. of E.) A.I.F. London. The "Last Post" was sounded by a Bugler of the A.I.F. Mrs Clark (wife) and several friends were present at the funeral and placed wreaths on the grave. An oak cross was erected on the grave. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the funeral – (Wife) Mrs Clark, 45 Ilex Road, Willesden, and other relatives.

Private William John Clark requested in his Will, dated 9th January, 1918, that in the event of his death the whole of his property be given to his wife – Eva Kate Clark, of 45 Ilex Road, Willesden, London. (A previous Will, dated 12th July, 1917 has bequeathed all his personal estate to his Mother – Ellen Jane Pollard, of Wellaton Street, Midland Junction, Western Australia.)

A War Pension was granted to Eva Kate Clark, of 45 Ilex Road, Willesden, widow of the late Private William John Clark, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 14th March, 1918.

Private William John Clark was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private W. J. Clark's widow - Mrs E. K. Clark (later Mrs Williams – remarried), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William John Clark – service number 247, aged 25, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of the late William John Clark; husband of Mrs Eva Kate Williams (formerly Clark), of Sunderland St., Mayfield, Newcastle, New South Wales. Born at Guildford, Perth, Western Australia.

W. J. Clark is remembered on the St. Matthew's Church Honour Roll for those who served in World War 1, located in St. Matthew's Church, Stirling Square, Guildford, Western Australia.



**St. Matthew's Church Honour Roll for those who served in World War 1** (Photo from Monument Australia)

W. J. Clark is remembered on the Guildford State School Honour Roll, Western Australia.



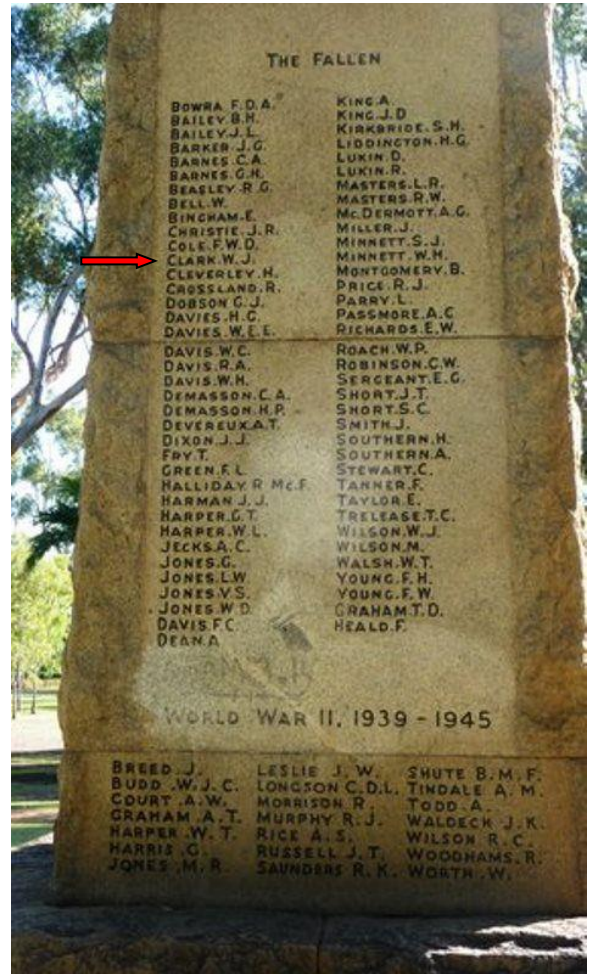
Guildford State School Honour Roll (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Steph Radis)

W. J. Clark is remembered on the St. Matthew's Church Honour Roll for the Fallen, located in St. Matthew's Church, Stirling Square, Guildford, Western Australia.



St. Matthew's Church Honour Roll for the Fallen (Photo from Monument Australia)

W. J. Clark is remembered on the Guildford War Memorial, located in Stirling Square, Meadow Street, Guildford, Western Australia.

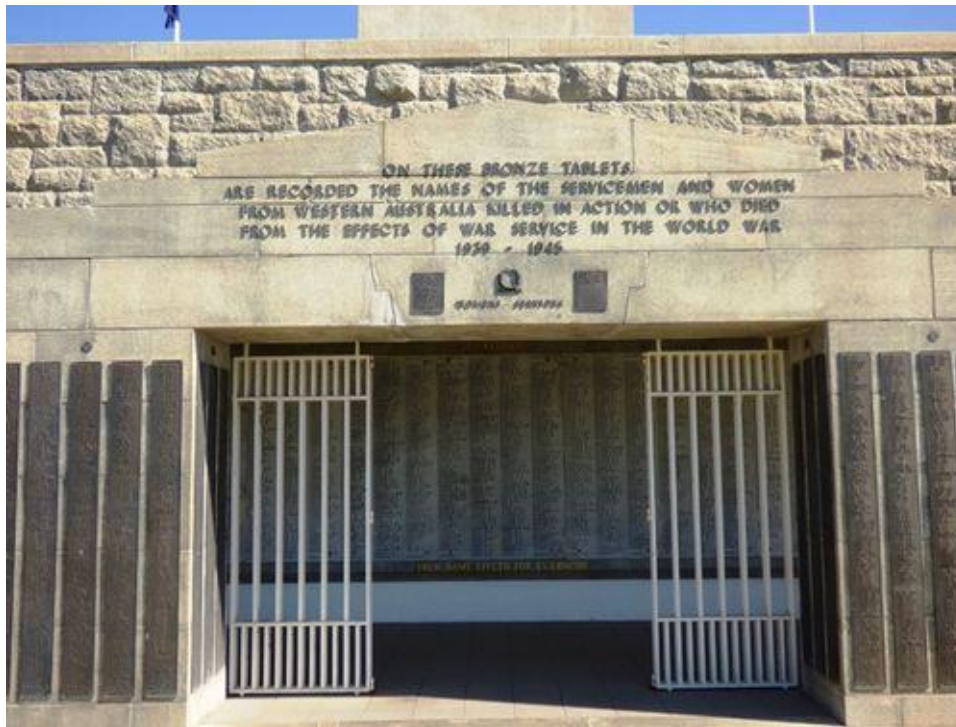


**Guildford War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)

W. J. Clark is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.





Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park & The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



16th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



Private W. J. Clark is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 79.



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

(58 pages of Private William John Clark'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*



**CORPORAL W. J. CLARK,**  
16th Battalion, wounded.

*(The Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 13 June, 1915) & (The Sun, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 20 June, 1915)*



**SOME MEMBERS OF THE 16th BATTALION NOW ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

Standing - Corpl. A. Johnson (Collie), Corpl. S. Woodbrook (Donnybrook), **Corpl. W. J. Clark (Guildford)**

Sitting - Corpl. A.E. Anderson (Busselton).

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 24 August, 1917 & 31 August, 1917)

## **Newspaper Notices**

**More Local Volunteers** – The following is the list of those who volunteered for active service in connection with the last call for recruits for the Australian Expeditionary Force, and left by last night's train: ..... William John Clark.....

(*Geraldton Guardian*, Western Australia – 19 November, 1914)

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## **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

### **PARTICULARS OF NEXT OF KIN**

The following are the particulars of the next of kin of those Western Australian soldiers whose names appeared in the twenty-sixth casualty list, published in these columns on Saturday:-

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Corporal W. J. Clark, 16th Battalion, G. Co., 22 years, single, next of kin Mrs T. Pollard, Helena-street, Guildford;

.....

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 31 May, 1915)

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## **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

Wounded – ..... Cpl. W. J. Clark (second occasion), .....

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 23 September, 1917)

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## **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

### **W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED**

William John Clark, Guildford, previously reported wounded, second occasion.

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 5 February, 1918)

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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)*

Private W. J. Clark does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory Of The Dear Husband And Dadda*

*Of Eva and Kenneth*

### **Willesden New Cemetery, Willesden, Greater London, England**

Willesden New Cemetery contains 257 Commonwealth War Graves - 135 First World War graves and 122 from the Second World War. Most of the graves are scattered, although 29 of the Second World War graves form an informal group. A Screen Wall bears the names of those casualties from both wars buried in the cemetery whose graves could not be individually marked. The cemetery also contains a memorial erected by the Borough Council to the civilians of Willesden who lost their lives in enemy air raids. *(information from CWGC)*



**Willesden New Cemetery** *(Photo by julia&keld)*

Photo of Private W. J. Clark's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Willesden New Cemetery, Willesden, Greater London, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)*



**Cross of Sacrifice in Willesden New Cemetery** (Photo by Mike Ganly – Find a Grave)

