

**Torrisholme Cemetery,
Westgate, Morecambe, Lancashire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



8972 PRIVATE

J. CLARKE

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

16TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 36

John CLARKE

John Clarke was born at Morecambe, Lancashire, England in mid 1880 to parents William Barrow Clarke and Jane Clarke (nee Birkett).

The 1881 England Census recorded John Clarke as a 10 month old living with his family at 44 Lord Rd, Poulton, Lancashire. His parents were listed as William B. Clarke (Carrier, aged 35, born Heysham, Lancs) & Jane Clarke (aged 35, born Middleton, Lancs). John was the youngest of 4 children listed on this Census – Margaret (Scholar, aged 10, born Manchester, Lancs), Mary E. (Scholar, aged 7, born Morecambe, Lancs), Nancy (Scholar, aged 4, born Morecambe, Lancs) then John.

John Clarke attended Morecambe Council School, Lancashire, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded John Clarke as a 10 year old Scholar living with his family at 3 Anderton Street, Poulton Bare and Torrisholme, Morecambe. Lancaster, England. His parents were listed as William B. Clarke (Grocer, aged 45, born Heysham, Lancs) & Jane Clarke (aged 45, born Middleton, Lancs). John was one of seven children listed on this Census – Margaret A. (House Assistant, aged 20, born Manchester, Lancs), Mary E. (Grocer's Assistant, aged 17, born Morecambe, Lancs), Nancy (aged 14, born Morecambe, Lancs), then John, Edith (Scholar, aged 8, born Morecambe, Lancs), William B. (Scholar, aged 6, born Morecambe, Lancs) & Jane (aged 3, born Morecambe, Lancs).

The 1901 England Census recorded John Clarke as a 20 year old Bread Baker living with his widowed mother & siblings at 15 Pedder St, part of Morecambe/Poulton, Lancashire. His mother was listed as Jane Clark (Grocer & Baker, Shopkeeper, aged 55). John was one of seven children listed on this Census – Margaret A. (aged 30), Nancy (aged 24), then John, Edith (aged 18), William B. (Tailor's Apprentice, aged 16), Jane (At School, aged 13) & Mary E. Thornton (married, aged 27) & Mary's son – Charles C. Thornton (aged 1).

John Clarke married Lily Ethel Sorsby in the March quarter, 1907 in the district of Lancaster, Lancashire.

A birth was registered in the December quarter, 1909 in the district of Lancaster, Lancashire for Eric Barrow Clarke.

The 1911 England Census recorded John Clarke as a 30 year old, married, Labourer (Butcher Industry/Service) living with his wife & son in a five roomed dwelling at 14 Primrose Street, Morecambe, Lancashire, England. His wife was listed as Lily Ethel Clarke (aged 29, born Sheffield, Yorks) & their son was listed as Eric Barrow Clarke (aged 1, born Morecambe, Lancs). John & Lily Clarke had been married for 4 years & had only 1 child at the time of the 1911 Census.

[The 1911 England Census listed Jane Clarke, mother of John Clarke as an owner of a Grocer's Shop, aged 65. Three of her daughters were still living at home – Margaret Annie (Bread Baker, aged 40), Edith (aged 28) & Jane (Assisting in Grocer's Shop, aged 23).]

John Clarke had been a member of the Morecambe Corps of St. John Ambulance for around 16 years.

Lily E. Clarke, aged 31, & her son – Eric B. Clarke, aged 3, were passengers on *Belgic* which departed from the port of Liverpool, England on 21st May, 1913 bound for Fremantle, Australia.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Fremantle, subdivision of South Fremantle, Western Australia listed John Clarke, of 626 Edmund Street, Beaconsfield, Butcher.

John Clarke was a 35 year old, married, Butcher from Fremantle, Western Australia when he enlisted on 20th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 8972 & his religion was Wesleyan. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs L. E. Clarke of Central Avenue, Chester Park, Fremantle, Western Australia.

Private John Clarke was posted to 26th Depot on 26th August, 1915. He was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 16th October, 1915.

Private John Clarke was posted to No. 2 Stationary Hospital on 20th January, 1916.

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Private John Clarke embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) on 12th February, 1916 with the 14th Reinforcements, 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital.

Private John Clarke proceeded to Miscellaneous Reinforcements at Zeitoun on 12th March, 1916.

Private John Clarke was temporarily attached to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 11th June, 1916 from 2nd Stationary Hospital.

Private John Clarke embarked from Alexandria on HMT *Karoola* for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 25th September, 1916.

Private John Clarke was admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital, Brighton on 7th November, 1916. He was reported seriously ill on 13th November, 1916.

Private John Clarke died on 16th November, 1916 at Kitchener Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from Endocarditis & Pneumonia.

A death for John Clarke, aged 36, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

Private John Clarke was buried on 20th November, 1916 in Torrisholme Cemetery, Westgate, Morecambe, Lancashire, England – Plot number F. Green. 6. The Headstone Schedule for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for Torrisholme Cemetery contains a typed list of 15 Commonwealth War Graves. Private John Clarke is number 7 on the list & a next to his name is an “x” & an arrow to the following handwritten notation “*Request from N/K for permission to replace the stone by a PM. ___ filed 28 Feb 1936.*” The number 14 is circled in pencil near the bottom of the sheet – possibly indicating that only 14 of the 15 graves were to be Commonwealth War Graves Commission installed Headstones. It appears that Private John Clarke was listed to receive a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone but the next-of-kin requested a Private Memorial instead.

Pte John Clarke was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Clarke's widow - Mrs L. E. Clarke, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Clarke – service number 8972, aged 36, of Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of William Barrow and Jane Clarke, husband of Lily Ethel Clarke, of 31 Pedder St., Morecambe, England.

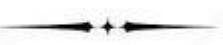
Private J. Clarke is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 182.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(41 pages of Pte John Clarke'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



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

CLARKE – On November 16, 1916, of endocarditis and pneumonia, Kitchener's Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England, Private J. Clarke, Army Medical Corps, late employee Read and Sons, butchers, Fremantle.

A much trusted and faithful servant

He gave up all to relieve sufferings of others.

His duty done.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 1 December, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

244th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

J. Clarke (Fremantle)

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 8 December, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

CLARKE – On loving memory of my dear husband, Private J. Clarke, A.A.M.C., who passed away in Kitchener Hospital, Brighton, England, November 16, 1916.

So dearly loved, so deeply mourned.

-Inserted by his sorrowing wife, little son, Eric and Sister, A. Sorsby.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 16 November, 1917)

Torrisholme Cemetery, Westgate, Morecambe, Lancashire

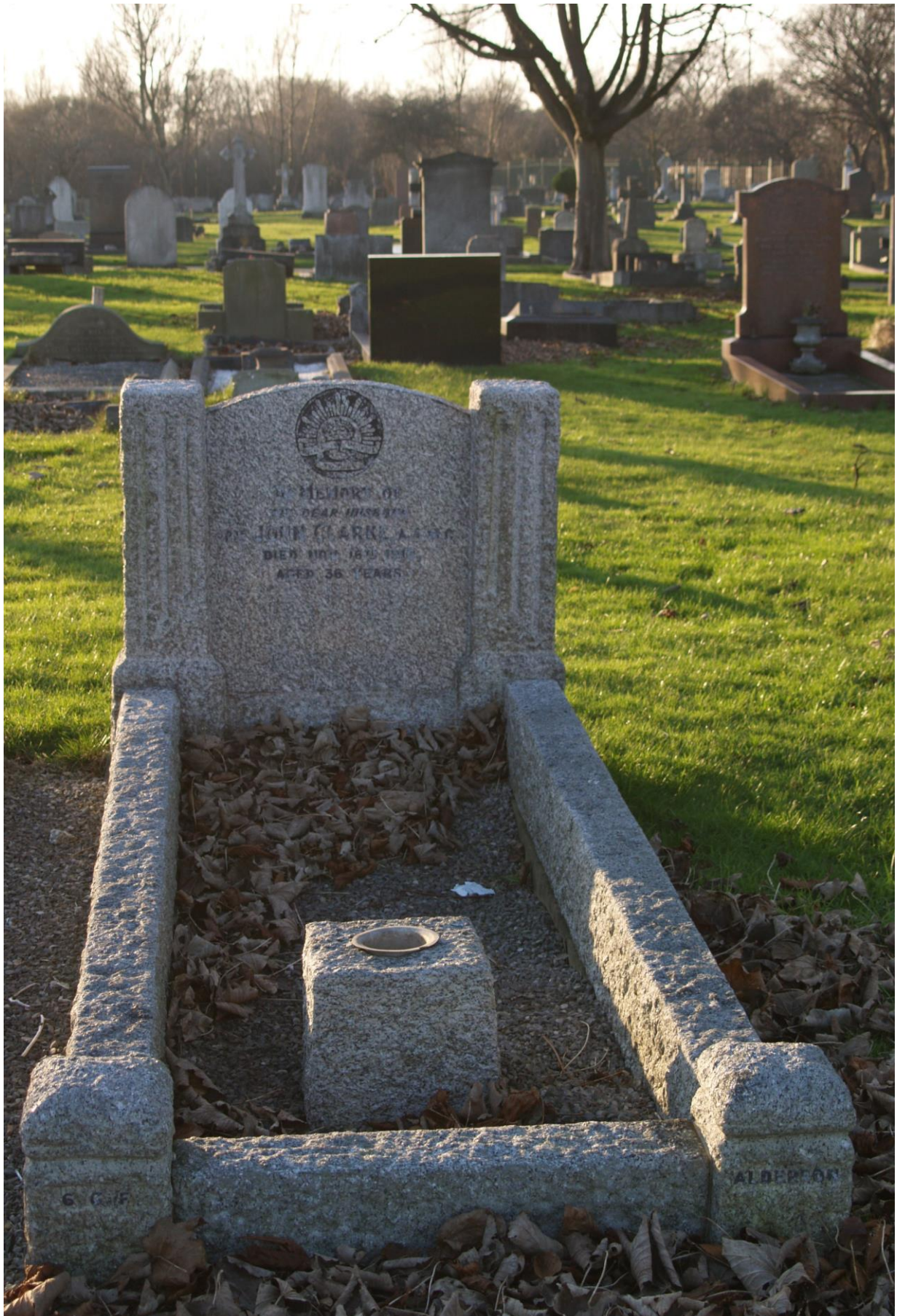
Torrisholme Cemetery contains 59 Commonwealth War Graves – 17 relate to World War 1 & 42 relate to World War 2.



Torrisholme Cemetery Grounds & Chapel (Photo by Andrew Hill)



Photo of Pte John Clarke's Private Headstone in Torrisholme Cemetery, Westgate, Morecambe, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)

In Memory Of
My Dear Husband
*Pte **JOHN CLARKE**, A.A.M.C.*
Died Nov 16th, 1916
Aged 36 Years