

**Rake Lane Cemetery,
Wallasey, Merseyside
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



224 PRIVATE

J. COLLINGS

AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY

4TH NOVEMBER, 1918

John COLLINGS

John Collings was born at Walton, Liverpool, Lancashire, England in 1891 to parents John and Catherine Collings (nee Cochrane).

John Collings attended St. Laurence's National School, Liverpool, Lancashire, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded John Collings as an 11 year old, living with his family at 43 Rumney Rd, Kirkdale, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as John Collings (Clergyman's Clerk, aged 46) & Catherine Collings (aged 47). John Collings (jnr) was one of eight children listed on this Census – Gertrude (Daughter, Dressmaker, aged 24), Sarah E. (Assistant in ____ ____, aged 22), Catherine (Housemaid, aged 20), Florence (Apprentice Dressmaker, aged 16), Alvina (aged 14), then John, Blanche (aged 4) & Dora A. (aged 8 months).

Catherine Collings, mother of John Collings, died on 23rd February, 1908 in Chester, Cheshire, England.

The 1911 England Census recorded John Collings as a 20 year old Clerk, living with his family at 11 Birnan Road, Seacombe, Cheshire. His widower father was listed as John Collings (Secretary to Engineering Company, aged 56). John Collings (jnr) was one of six children listed on this Census – Robert G. (aged 36, married, Commercial Traveller, aged 36 with 3 children), Catherine (Shop Assistant, aged 29), Florence (Housekeeper, aged 26), Alvina (At Home, aged 24), then John & Blanche (aged 14). Also listed was Hugh C. Derrig, a visitor (Canadian Farmer, aged 42). John Collings had listed that he had 14 children in total but 6 had since died.

J. Collings, aged 20, born Liverpool with home address of 11 Birnan Rd, Seacombe, was listed as a crew member – Assistant Pantryman on board *Empress of Britain* in May, 1911.

According to information provided by his sister for the Roll of Honour – John Collings came to Australia when he was 22 years old.

John Collings was a 23 year old, single, Seaman from 71 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney, NSW on 24th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 224 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as John Collings, 11 Birnan Road, Seacombe, Cheshire, England. John Collings stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 3 years with 4th West Lancashire Howitzer Brigade Territorial Force, Liverpool, England.

John Collings joined 2nd Battery, 1st Field Artillery Brigade as Driver on 24th August, 1914 for recruit training.

Driver John Collings embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 18th October, 1914 with the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Battery.

John Collings. father of John Collings, died on 23rd January, 1915 at Cheshire, England.

Driver John Collings joined M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 4th April, 1915.

Driver John Collings was sent sick to Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 6th January, 1916 with venereal disease. He was admitted to D. B. I. H. at Abbassia on 6th January, 1916. Driver Collings was admitted to 1st Australia Dermatological Hospital on 7th February, 1916.

Driver John Collings rejoined & transferred to 1st Battery at Tel-el-Kebir on 6th March, 1916.

Driver John Collings embarked from Alexandria to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 21st March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916.

Driver John Collings was given 5 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks) on 19th April, 1916 for neglecting to obey an order.

Driver John Collings was given 1 day F. P. No. 2 (Field Punishment) with forfeiture of pay on 3rd May, 1916 for improper conduct on Parade.

Driver John Collings was admitted to 13th Field Ambulance on 8th July, 1916 (Herpes Zoster) then transferred to 15th Field Ambulance on 14th July, 1916. He was transferred to Divisional Rest Station on 14th July, 1916 & rejoined his Unit (1st Divisional Trench Mortar Battery) on 2nd August, 1916.

Driver John Collings was sent sick to Hospital on 7th December, 1916 with abrasions of foot. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 8th December, 1916 with abrasions of fee & then transferred to 20th C.R.S. the same day. Driver Collings was discharged to duty on 19th December, 1916 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital in 22nd December, 1916.

Driver John Collings proceeded on leave on 13th May, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 28th May, 1917.

Driver John Collings was sent to Hospital sick on 21st August, 1917. He was admitted to 17th Casualty Clearing Station with Diarrhoea on 22nd August, 1917 then transferred to No. 20 Ambulance Train on the same day. Driver Collings was admitted to 46th Stationary Hospital on 23rd August, 1917 then transferred to No. 6 Convalescent Depot on 4th September, 1917. He was transferred to No. 5 Convalescent Depot at Cayeux on 9th September, 1917. Driver Collings joined A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France from Convalescent Camp on 27th September, 1917.

Driver John Collings was marched out from A.G.B.D. to 1st Divisional Artillery on 1st October, 1917. He rejoined his Unit on 5th October, 1917.

Driver John Collings was sent to Hospital sick on 31st December, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 20th Divisional Rest Station the same day – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Driver Collings was discharged to duty on 13th January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 26th January, 1918.

On 17th January, 1918 the next-of kin was altered for Driver John Collings to that of his sister – Florence Bellas of 25 Lindeth Avenue, Wallasey, Cheshire, England as his parents were deceased.

Driver John Collings proceeded on leave from 21st February, 1918 & returned on 9th March, 1918.

Driver John Collings embarked at Havre, France on 13th October, 1918 ready for return to Australia. "B" Draft disembarked at Southampton & marched in to St. Budeaux on 14th October, 1918 for R. to A. (Return to Australia). Special 1914 Leave.

Driver John Collings was admitted to 4th Southern General Hospital (Ford House) Devonport, England on 18th October, 1918 with Influenza. He was reported as dangerously ill with pneumonia.

Driver John Collings died at 22.20 hours on 4th November, 1918 at 4th Southern General Hospital (Ford House Section), Devonport, England from Influenza & Septic Pneumonia.

A death for John Collings, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Driver John Collings was buried on 11th November, 1918 in Rake Lane Cemetery, Wallasey, Merseyside, England – Plot number 3. C. 34 and he is included on the Private Family Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Driver John Collings - *Coffin was Elm and brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several wreaths sent from relations. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. Hughes, of Wallasey officiated. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives or friends present at the funeral – 5 Sisters, 2 Brothers-in-law, 1 Brother and Sister-in-Law.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file has 2 files for Driver John Collings. The first file has a letter from the Staff Officer, British Medical Research stating that Pte Collins, No. 224, was admitted to 4th Southern General Hospital on 18th October, 1918 suffering from Purulent Bronchitis & died on the 4th November, 1918. The second file contains a

letter from The Matron, 4th Southern General Hospital which reads: "*Pte Collins was admitted to this hospital on Oct. 20th 1918 suffering from double Bronchial Pneumonia following Influenza. He was very ill when admitted. During the first few days he appeared to rally a little & could take his nourishment. Every possible treatment was tried & he made a splendid fight & was conscious & talked to his sister up to the day he died, Nov. 4th 1918. His death was quite restful at the end. The body was conveyed to Aylesbury where his sister Mrs Bellas, Tynmouth Avenue, Polton, Cheshire resides.*"

Also in the Red Cross Wounded & Missing file is a letter from A.I.F. Headquarters regarding John Collins, 224, 1st F.A.B., "*Adm. 4th S.G.H. Ford House Devonport 18-10-18 – Influenza pneumonia. Died 4th S.G.H. 4-11-18. Buried Rake Lane Cemetery Wallesley Liverpool – grave No. 34 private grave, private section by Rev. Hughes, Wallesley, Five Sisters & one brother present.*"

Driver John Collings requested in his Will, dated 9th July, 1917 that all his personal property be bequeathed to K & F. Collings, 25 Lindith Avenue, Poulton, Cheshire, England.

Driver John Collings was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Collings' sister - Mrs F. Bellas (in England), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver John Collings – service number 224, aged 21, of 1st Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of the late John and Catherine Collings.

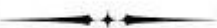
Driver J. Collings is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 11.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(40 pages of Driver John Collings' 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





Driver John Collings (*Photo courtesy of Nick Gordon*)



Newspaper Notices

NEARER THE END

DOUBLE CASUALTY LIST

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No. 449

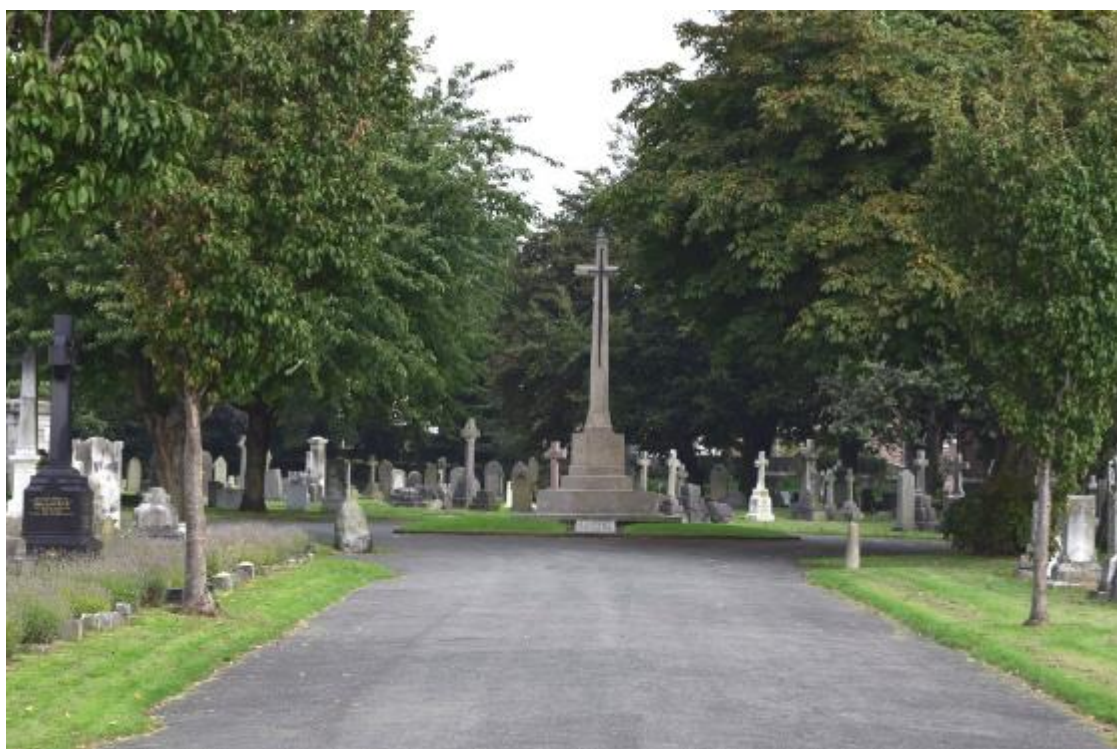
DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Dvr. J. COLLINGS, England (illness)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 30 November, 1918)

Rake Lane Cemetery, Wallasey, Merseyside, England

Rake Lane Cemetery, Wallasey, Merseyside contains 256 Commonwealth War Graves – 131 from World War 1 & 125 from World War 2.



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Driver John Collings' Private Family Headstone in Rake Lane Cemetery, Wallasey, Merseyside, England.



In

Loving Memory of

CATHERINE

The Beloved Wife Of

JOHN COLLINGS,

Who Departed This Life

February 23rd 1908, Aged 53 Years.

“For Ever With The Lord”

*Also **JOHN COLLINGS,***

The Beloved Husband Of The Above,

Who Departed This Life

January 23rd 1915, Aged 60 Years.

“Deeply Regretted”

*Also **JOHN, Second Son Of Above***

Died Nov. 6th 1918, Aged 24 Years.

*Also **ROBERT GEORGE,***

Eldest Son Of Above

Died May 19th 1935, Aged 61 Years.

Rake Lane Cemetery

