

**Aberffrwd Cemetery,  
Mountain Ash, Wales,  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**512 GUNNER**

**J. DAVIES**

**AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY**

**28TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 29**

## John DAVIES

John Davies was born at Merthyr Tydfil, near Abercwmboi, Glamorganshire, South Wales in December, 1890 to father George Davies.

John Davies attended Abercwmboi Public School, South Wales.

John Davies came to Australia when he was 22 years old according to information supplied by his wife for the Roll of Honour.

John Davies married Lucy Dora Addison on 8th July, 1915 in the district of Norwood, South Australia. Lucy Dora Addison lived at her parents' residence "Winham" Phylis Street, Maylands, South Australia. Her parents were James Addison & Susannah Addison (nee Morphett).

John Davies was a 25 year old, married, Miner from Phylis Street, Maylands, Adelaide, South Australia when he enlisted on 8th July, 1915 with the Siege Artillery Brigade – 2nd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 512 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Lucy Dora Davies, of Phylis Street, Maylands, Adelaide, South Australia. John Davies stated on his Attestation papers that he had served in the R.A.G.A & was still serving.

Gunner John Davies embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Warilda* (A69) on 8th November, 1915.

Gunner John Davies joined 55th Battery from Reinforcements in the field on 17th April, 1916.

Gunner John Davies was transferred to H.Q. 36th H.A.G (Heavy Artillery Group) on 9th August, 1916.

Gunner John Davies was transferred to 55th Siege Battery on 4th January, 1917.

Gunner John Davies was on leave to England on 31st July, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 15th August, 1917.

Gunner John Davies was detached & transferred to 5th Australian Divisional Artillery on 24th November, 1917. He was taken on strength with 5th Australian Divisional Artillery from 55th Siege Battery.

Gunner John Davies proceeded on leave to UK from France on 27th July, 1918.

Gunner John Davies was sent sick to Hospital on 15th August, 1918 whilst on leave in UK. He rejoined from being sick & on leave on 24th August, 1918.

Gunner John Davies was detached to 14th Australian Field Artillery Brigade on 16th September, 1918 & attached for duty the same day.

Gunner John Davies was wounded in action on 5th October, 1918, while on detachment. He was admitted to 12th Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to face & side of right foot. Gunner John Davies was admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 6th October, 1918 with multiple shrapnel wounds. He embarked for England on 10th October, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Cambria*.

### War Diary - 14th Australian Field Artillery Brigade

*Oct 3. 1918 – Brigade in reserve – relieved by 2nd Div. Artillery. Casualties 5 other ranks wounded by bomb.*

*Oct 4. 1918 – During the afternoon Brigade moved up the line near Johncourt. Headquarters took up position in railway cutting – H.16d.6.8 – and Batteries came into action in immediate vicinity. S.O.S. lines laid out. Casualties – 1 other rank wounded by shell fire.*

*Oct 5. 1918 – At 6 a.m. Batteries took part in a creeping barrage in support of advance of 2nd Aust. Div. Infantry as per orders attached (appendix 4). During the day Batteries also engaged various targets. Casualties 4 other ranks wounded. 2 horses killed.....*

*(War Diary from The [Australian War Memorial](#))*

Gunner John Davies was admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, England on 10th October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to foot & right thigh.

Mrs Lucy Davies contacted the South Australian Division of Red Cross on 28th October, 1918 to find out further details of her husband's injuries. A reply was sent from the Red Cross stating that the "*Cable Company has advised owing to congestion and interruptions on their lines no cables can at present be received by them. This you will understand quite holds up our work which is carried out almost entirely by cable. However, as soon as this restriction is lifted we will forward an enquiry to our Red Cross Commissioners in London and on receipt of their reply will again communicate with you.*"

A letter was sent to Mrs L. D. Davies on 17th December, 1918 from the Red Cross advising that they had received a cable from London dated November 19, 1918 & advised that Gunner Davies was transferred to Salisbury on November 7th to await orders to rejoin his Unit.

Gunner John Davies was discharged from Hospital & sent on furlough from 24th October, 1918 until 7th November, 1918 & was then to report to No. 1 Command Depot.

Gunner John Davies was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 7th November, 1918. He was medically classified as B1 A2 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in three to four weeks).

Gunner John Davies admitted to Sutton Veny Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 20th November, 1918 with Influenza. Gunner John Davies was reported seriously ill with Influenza & Pneumonia on 22nd November, 1918.

Gunner John Davies died at 5.20 am on 28th November, 1918 at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for John Davies, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Gunner John Davies was buried on 3rd December, 1918 in Aberffwd Cemetery, Mountain Ash, Glamorganshire, Wales – Plot number 2413 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Gunner John Davies – *Coffin was polished Oak with polished metal fittings. The deceased soldier interred privately by relatives in Wales. Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Relatives & friends present at the funeral – Father Mr George Davies, Brother-in-law, 2 Brothers and 22 friends resident in Mountain Ash.*

Gunner John Davies requested in his Will dated 2nd January, 1918 that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Lucy Dora Davies of 45 Phillis St, Maylands, Adelaide, South Australia.

Gunner John Davies was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Davies' widow - Mrs L. D. Davies, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner John Davies – service number 512, aged 29, of 5th Div., Australian Field Artillery. He was the husband of Mrs L. D. Davies, of Phyllis St., Maylands, South Australia.

J. Davies is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.

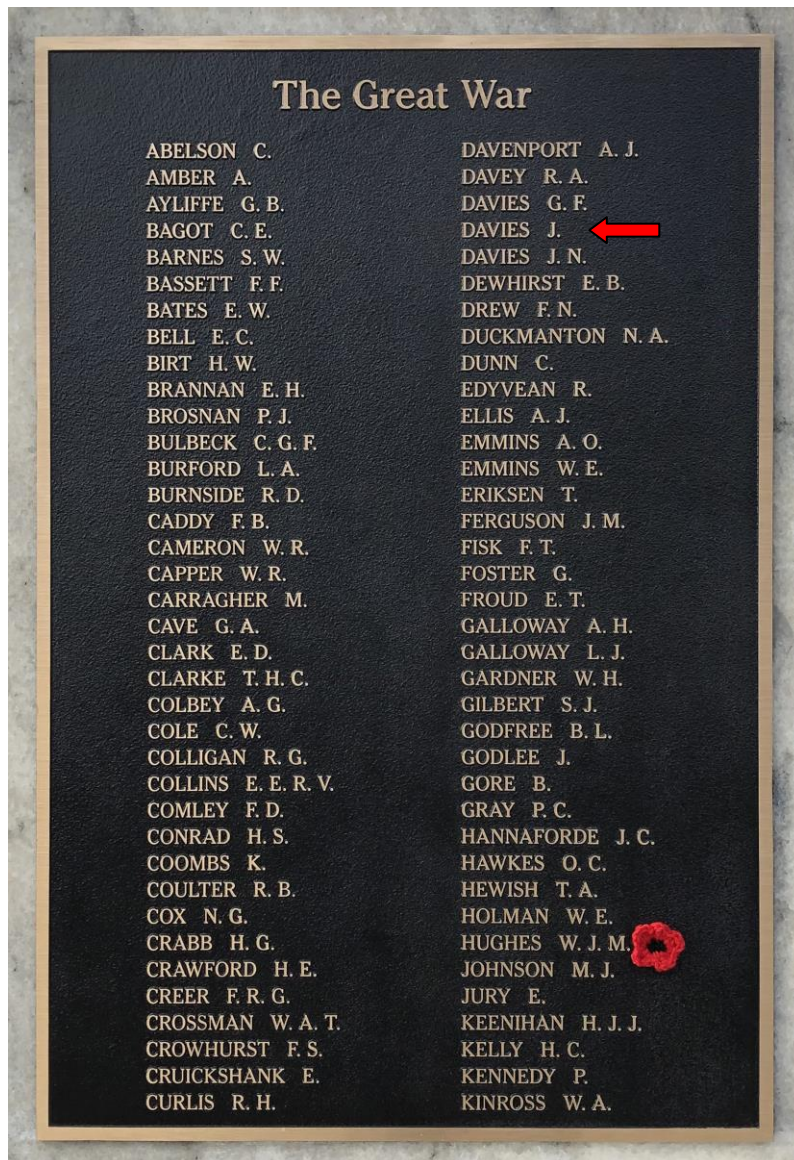


**National War Memorial – Adelaide** (Photos by Bilby)

J. Davies is remembered on the St. Peter's Heroes Memorial, located in St. Peters Street, St. Peters, South Australia. The memorial which was erected in 1922 was one of the Great War Memorials that did not feature the names of the fallen. A grant was awarded along with other funding & on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 the memorial was re-dedicated with the names of 145 men from the suburbs of Hackney, College Park, East Adelaide, St. Peters, Stepney, Evandale and Maylands.

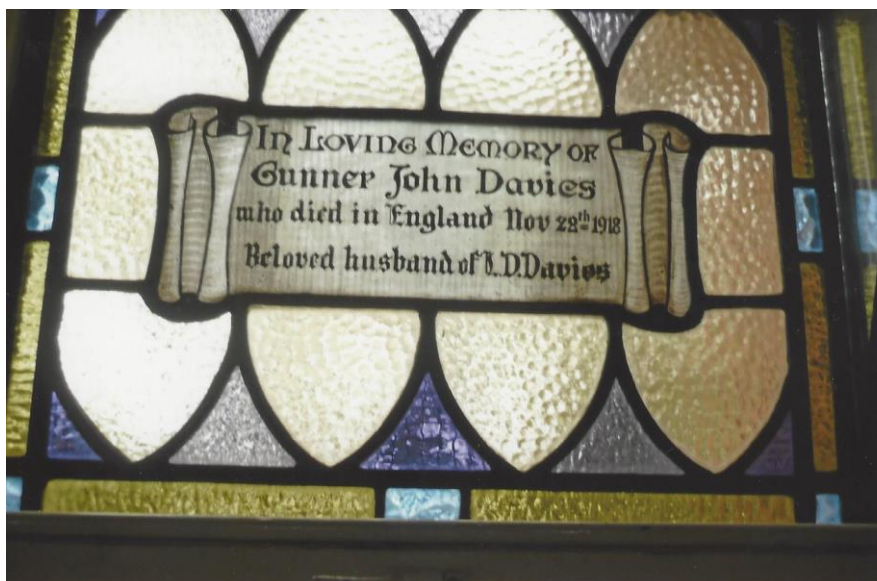


**St. Peters Heroes Memorial** (Photo courtesy of St Peters Residents Association Inc.)



**St. Peters Heroes Memorial** (Photo courtesy of St Peters Residents Association Inc.)

Gunner John Davies is remembered on a Stained Glass window located in the former Maylands Methodist Church, South Australia.



(Photo City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters Cultural Heritage Collection)

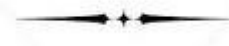
Gunner J. Davies is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 17.



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

(60 pages of Gunner John Davies' 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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **451st CASUALTY LIST**

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Died Other Causes

512, Gnr. J. DAVIES, Maylands, 28/11/18, illness, p.r.w.

(*Chronicle*, South Australia – 21 December, 1918)

### 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)*

Gunner J. Davies does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Aberffrwd Cemetery, Mountain Ash, Wales**

Aberffrwd Cemetery, Mountain Ash, Wales contains 6 Commonwealth War Graves – all for World War 1.



Photo of Gunner J. Davies' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Aberffrwed Cemetery, Mountain Ash, Wales.



*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*



Gunner John Davies shares a headstone with his wife Lucy Dora Davies in Payneham Cemetery, Payneham South, South Australia. Their headstone is on the family plot in which Lucy's parents - James & Susannah Addison & her sisters Winifred & Elsie were buried.



<i>In Loving</i>	<i>Memory of</i>
<b>Gnr. JOHN DAVIES</b>	<b>LUCY DORA</b>
<i>Late 1<sup>st</sup> A.I.F.</i>	<b>DAVIES</b>
<i>Beloved Husband of</i>	<i>Beloved Wife of</i>
<b>LUCY DORA</b>	<b>JOHN DAVIES</b>
<i>Died 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1918</i>	<i>Died 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1979</i>
<i>Aged 29 Years</i>	<i>Aged 92 Years</i>
<i>Interred in Wales, U.K.</i>	