

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,  
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**924 PRIVATE**

**J. DODD**

**6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**31ST JANUARY, 1917**

*Ever Remembered*

## John Robert DODD

John Robert Dodd was born at Woolwich, England to parents Harry & Jane Dodd. (Place of birth was listed on Attestation Papers as "*Woolich, London*". Parents' names as listed by information from CWGC) (according to his age listed on Attestation Papers he was born around 1869, however his wife placed a death notice in the newspapers in 1917 stating his age as 53 years which means his was born around 1864)

A birth was registered in March quarter, 1863 in the district of Greenwich for a John Robert Dodd. (Woolwich was a parish within the Greenwich Registration District)

The 1871 England Census recorded John Dodd as an 8 year old, living with his family at 14 Cottage Place, Battersea, Surrey, England. His parents were listed as Henry Dodd (Cabinet Maker, aged 31, born York, Yorkshire) & Jane Dodd (aged 31, born Woolwich, Kent). John was the eldest of four children listed on this Census – John then James Dodd (aged 6, born Brixton, Surrey), Harry Dodd (aged 4, born Ramsgate, Surrey) & Walter Dodd (aged 2, born Sutton, Surrey). Also listed was Sarah Ellis, a visitor (aged 18).

The 1881 England Census recorded John Dodd as an 18 year old Bricklayer's Labourer living with his family at No. 2 Lewis Terrace, Clive Road, Norwood, Lambeth, London, England. His parents were listed as Henry Dodd (Upholsterer, aged 42 (born Westminster) & Jane Dodd (aged 42, born Westminster). John was the eldest of five children listed on this Census – John then James Dodd (Bricklayer's Labourer, aged 16), Harry Dodd (Bricklayer's Labourer, aged 14), Walter Dodd (aged 12) & Lily Dodd (aged 8, born Battersea).

According to information supplied by his wife for the Roll of Honour – John Robert Dodd came to Australia when he was 21 years old. She stated he had served for about 10 years in Commonwealth Military Forces (Citizen).

[According to several Family Trees on Ancestry – John Robert Dodd was born on 27th July, 1866 at Richmond, Victoria to parents Ebenezer Daniel Dodd & Johanna Dodd (nee Maloney). These Family Trees list that he was married to Florence Maria Eveline Walker but have his date of death as 14 April, 1941.]

John Robert Dodd married Florence Maria Eveline Walker in Victoria on 25th September, 1895.

Births were registered in Victoria for the following children of John & Florence Dodd (nee Walker) – Gwendoline Olive Dodd born 5th September, 1897; Clarence John George Dodd born 3rd June, 1901, Fitzroy South; Harry Walter James Dodd, born 1906, Hawthorn & Florence Laura Dodd born 1911, Kensington Hill.

John Dodd was a 45 year old, married, Gas Labourer from 22 Princes Street, Flemington, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 17th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 924 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Florence Dodd, 22 Princes Street, Flemington, Victoria. John Dodd stated on his Attestation Papers that he belonged to 64th Infantry & was now serving at time of enlistment.

Private John Dodd embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 19th October, 1914 with the 6th Infantry Battalion "D" Company.

Private John Dodd embarked from Alexandria on 5th April, 1915 on Troopship *Galeka* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force).

Private John Dodd was transferred to Troopship *Galeka* on 20th May, 1915 at Dardanelles with Dysentery (as per Casualty form – Active Service. The Statement of Service form & Purport form both recorded Private Dodd had Diarrhoea from 22nd – 30th May, 1915). He was admitted to 17th General Hospital at Alexandria on 28th May, 1915. Private Dodd was transferred to Convalescent Camp at Mustapha on 25th June, 1915 (The Statement of Service form recorded Private Dodd was transferred on 21st June, 1915).

Private John Dodd was discharged as permanent Class "B" as pioneer at Australian & New Zealand Base at Alexandria from 27th October, 1915. He was still on list of Certain Permanent Class "B" at Serapeum on 21st February, 1916.

Private John Dodd was taken on strength of Details Camp at Tel-el-Kebir from 6th July, 1916.

Private John Dodd embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 22nd October, 1916 per *Minnetonk*.

### **6th Battalion**

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt.

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

Private John Dodd died on 31st January, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Hemiplegia/Haemoplegia.

A death for John Dodd, aged 48, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Private John Dodd was buried on 2nd February, 1917 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 268 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Co. Ltd, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 29th March, 1917: *“We have recently received death certificate and identification particulars for Private John Dodd. We do not appear to have written for these documents however, and presume they are intended for some other purpose. We accordingly return them herewith.”*

Base Records replied to The Actuary, Mutual Life & Citizens' Association Co. Ltd on 31st March, 1917 *“... I have to refer you to your letter of 16th ult., wherein you apply for, amongst others, the usual certificate and identity particulars of “John Robert Dodd, No. 924 Victoria.” The documents therefore are returned herewith.”*

A War Pension was granted to Florence M. E. Dodd, Bryant Street, Flemington, widow of the late Private John R. Dodd, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 4th April, 1917. Pensions were also granted to the following children of the late Private John Dodd (per fortnight & from 4th April, 1917) – Son - Clarence J. D Dodd - £1; Son - Harry W. J. Dodd – 15/- & Daughter – Florence L. Dodd – 10/-.

The Secretary, Grand United Order of Oddfellows, Melbourne, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 24th May, 1917 requesting the Certificate of Death of *“John R. Dodd, 6th Battery, D. Company, who is reported as Died ion England on 31st January, 1917.”*

Base Records replied on 29th May, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 924 Private J. Dodd, 6th Battalion.

R. E. Lack (Secretary), Rose of Collingwood Lodge, Grand United Order of Oddfellows, 172 Rathmines St, Fairfield, Victoria wrote to Base Records on 2nd June, 1917 requesting a Death Certificate for John R. Dodd *“to claim the Funeral claim from the Grand Lodge.”*

Base Records replied to The Secretary, Rose of Collingwood Lodge on 6th June, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 924 Private J. Dodd, 6th Battalion.

Florence Dodd, 82 Bryant St, Flemington, wrote Base Records on 18th July, 1917 *“Would you kindly let me know if the Kit & Personal effects of my late husband 924 J. Dodd has arrived – if so where can I obtain them. My late husband died on 31st January 1917 at Tidworth, England.”*

Base Records replied to Mrs Dodd on 24th July, 1917 advising *“the personal effects of your late husband, No. 924 Private John Dodd, 6th Battalion, were despatched from this office to you on the 21st instant, and no doubt you have received them ere this.”*

Communications addressed to Mrs Dodd, Bryant Street, Flemington, Victoria were returned to Base Records in November 1917 marked *“Unclaimed.”*

Florence Dodd, 69 Park Street, South Melbourne, Victoria, wrote to Base Records 23rd March, 1918 to *“gratefully acknowledge to the Military Authorities the photograph of my husband’s (No 924 Pte J. Dodd) grave received by me last week it was a beautiful surprise which my children and myself deeply appreciated...”*

Florence Dodd, 33 William St, Box Hill, wrote to Base Records on 14th April, 1920 with the following: *“Kindly take notice that I have removed to above address from 69 Park St, S. Melbourne.”*

Private John Dodd was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Dodd’s widow – Mrs F. Dodd, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

W. A. Pretty, 43 Reece Avenue, Windsor Gardens, wrote to Office In Charge Army Records, Melbourne on 5th July, 1957 with the following *“A relative of mine (ex S. Aus) was killed during World War I. His name was John Dodd. Could you please advise me the date of his death and place...”*

Base Records replied to Mr W. A. Pretty on 15th July, 1957 to advise that No. 924 Private John Dodd, 6th Battalion, died of illness at Military Hospital, Tidworth, England on 31st January, 1917.

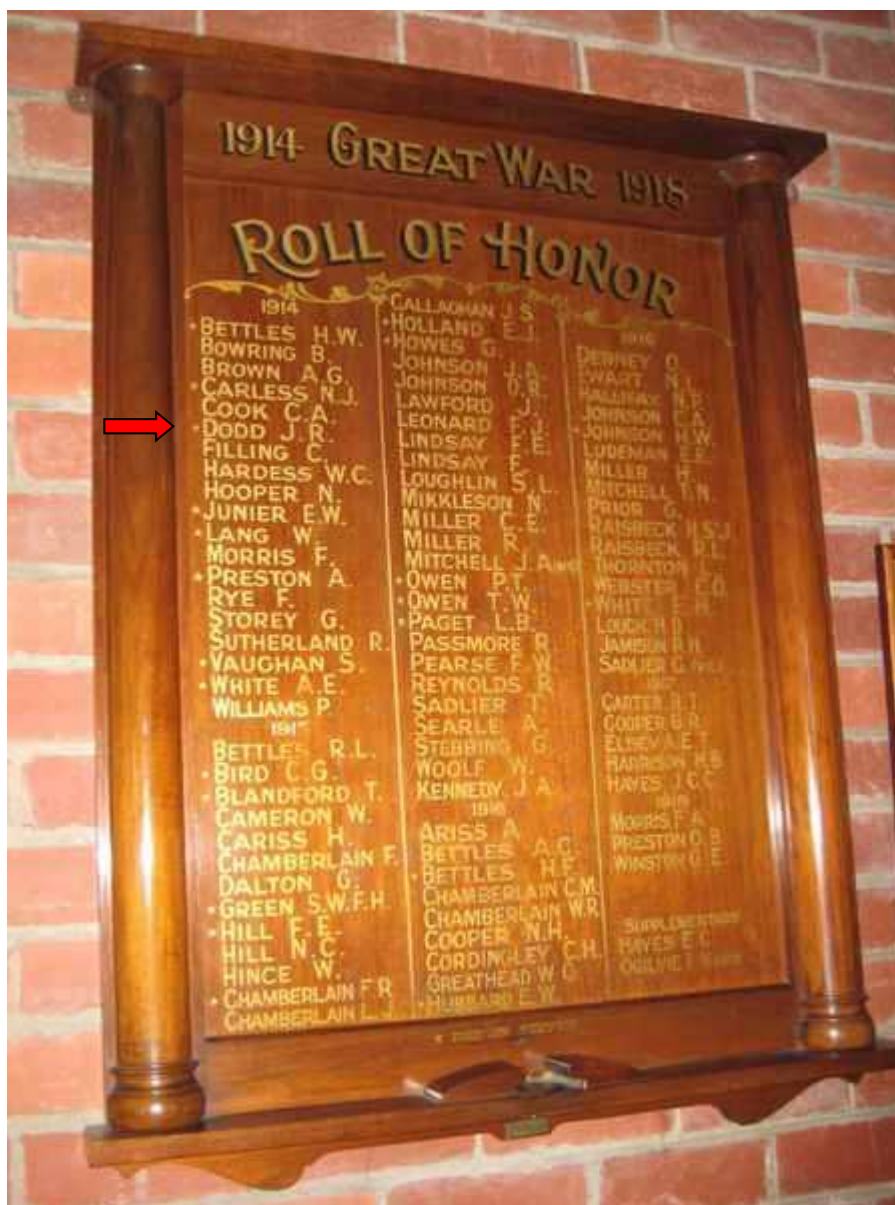
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Dodd – service number 924, of 6th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Harry & Jane Dodd; husband of Florence Dodd, of 33 William St., Box Hill, Victoria.

Private J. R. Dodd is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 46.



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

J. R. Dodd is remembered on St George's Church of England Roll of Honour, located in St George's Church, Baroda & Lucknow Street, Travancore, Victoria. At the time of World War 1 the church was located in Manningham St, Parkville, Victoria.



St George's Church of England Roll of Honour – Travancore / Parkville (Photo from VWMA – Lenore Frost)

(61 pages of Private John Dodd'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





**A Tribute to the employees of the Metropolitan Gas Company who served in the Great War.**

*(Courtesy of Old Gippstown)*





## Newspaper Notices

### DEATHS

#### On Active Service

DODD – On the 31st January, at Tidmouth Hospital, England, Private J. Dodd (Jack), loving and loved husband of Florence, and devoted father of Gwen, George, Harry and Florence, aged 53 years. Western Australian papers please copy.

His duty nobly done.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 February, 1917) & (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 February, 1917)

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### THE 272nd CASUALTY LIST

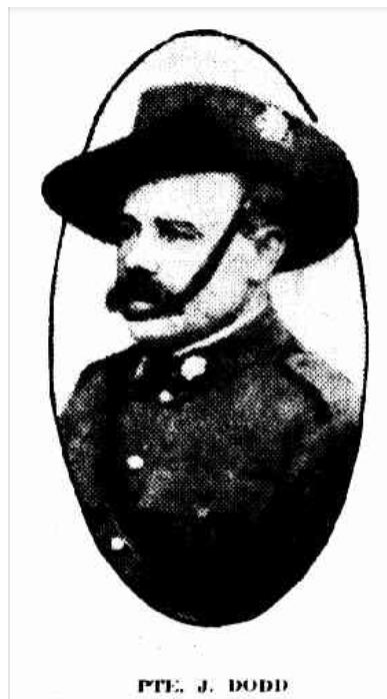
#### DIED OF ILLNESS

Private J. Dodd, Flemington

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 17 February, 1917)

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#### DIED IN EMPIRE'S CAUSE



Mrs Dodd, of Bryant street, Flemington, has received news that her husband, Pte J. Dodd, has died in England. Pte Dodd was one of the first to enlist, and was at the landing at the Dardanelles. He has since been in Egypt and England. He was a popular member of the old 5th Australian Infantry Regiment, and was an employee of the Metropolitan Gas Company at the time of his enlistment. He leaves a widow and four children.

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 May, 1917)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

DODD – A tribute to the memory of my loving husband, Private John Dodd, 6th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Tidworth, England, on 31st January, 1917, father of Gwen, George, Harry and Florence.

It is sweet to be remembered,  
And this my wish will show;  
I will hold you still in memory  
While the years they come and go.

-Inserted by his wife, Florence Dodd.

DODD – A tribute to the memory of 924, Private John R. Dodd, 6th Battalion, who died of illness in Tidworth Hospital on the 31st January, 1917 and 2 years and 3 months' active service.

At rest.

He has carried his cross, he has won his crown,  
Though he lies in a far off grave;  
We will remember his life as duty done,  
Manly, unselfish and brave.

\_\_\_ W.S. and M.S.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 January, 1918)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

DODD – In kind remembrance of Private John R. Dodd, 6th Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Tidworth Hospital, England, on the 31st January, 1917. An Anzac.

He has crossed the grand horizon,  
Eternity's great span;  
He has earned the crowning glory  
Of a soldier and a man.

- R. W. and M. Sandford.

DODD – In loving memory of John Robert, loved husband of Florence, loving father of Gwen, George, Harry and Fanny (?) who died at Tidworth Military Hospital, London. His duty nobly done.

Sadly missed, but ever remembered.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 January, 1919)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

DODD –In memory of John, loving husband of Florence, devoted father of Gwen, George, Harry and Florence, who died at Tidworth Military Hospital, England, on the 31st January, 1917.

Ever remembered.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 January, 1920)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

DODD –In memory of John, dearly loved husband of Florence, and loving father of Gwen, George, Harry and Florence, who died at Tidworth Military Hospital, England, 31st January, 1917.

Ever remembered.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 January, 1921)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

DODD – A tribute to the memory of John Dodd, 924, 6th Battalion, devoted husband of Florence, loving father of Gwen, Geo., Harry and Florence, who died at Tidworth Military Hospital on 31st January, 1917. Ever remembered,

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 January, 1922)*

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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 J. Dodd does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Ever Remembered*

## Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

*(Information from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

*The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.*

*Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground*

*Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.*

*Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.*

*Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'*



**Tidworth Military Cemetery** (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo courtesy of *John Prestidge*)





**Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire** *(Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)*



*(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)*

Photo of Private J. Dodd's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)*



