

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3109 TROOPER**

**A. G. FORSYTH**

**4TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE**

**2ND APRIL, 1917**

## Alexander Gibson FORSYTH

Alexander Gibson Forsyth was born at "Killbride", Mansfield, Victoria on 16th October, 1891 to parents Alexander & Mary McTurk Forsyth (nee Gibson).

Alexander Gibson Forsyth attended No 1360 Gold St., State School & University High School.

Alexander Forsyth (senior), father of Alexander Gibson Forsyth, died on 14th September, 1906 at Howes Creek, Victoria.

The 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Indi, subdivision of Mansfield, Victoria recorded Alexander Gibson Forsyth, Grazier, from Mansfield.

Alexander Gibson Forsyth was a 25 year old, single, Grazier from Kilbride, Mansfield, Victoria when he enlisted on 19th September, 1916 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary E. Forsyth, Kilbride, Mansfield, Victoria.

Private Alexander Gibson Forsyth was posted to 4th Light Horse Reinforcements from 3rd October, 1916. He was transferred to 3rd A.C. Rep from 27th November, 1916 then transferred on 29th November, 1916 to 24th Reinforcements of 4th Light Horse Regiment.

Private Alexander Gibson Forsyth, Service number 3109, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 6th December, 1916 with the 4th Light Horse Regiment, 24th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 17th February, 1917.

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.

Private Alexander Gibson Forsyth was marched in to 4th Light Horse Regiment Details at Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 18th February, 1917 from Australia.

### 4th Light Horse Regiment

The 4th Light Horse Regiment was a mounted infantry regiment of the Australian Army during the First World War. The regiment was raised in August 1914, as the divisional cavalry regiment for the 1st Division.

Light horse regiments normally comprised twenty-five officers and 497 other ranks serving in three squadrons, each of six troops. Each troop was divided into eight sections, of four men each. In action one man of each section was nominated as a horse holder reducing the regiment's rifle strength by a quarter. The 4th Light Horse eventually raised five squadrons and later in the war, two of these squadrons were detached to accompany the Australian infantry divisions to France, while the other three remained to the Middle East, serving with the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division.

All Australian Light Horse regiments used cavalry unit designations, but were mounted infantry, and mounted exclusively on the Australian Waler horse.

*(Extract of Regiment information from Wikipedia)*



Private Alexander Gibson Forsyth reported sick to Hospital on 11th March, 1917 with Pleurisy. He was reported to be seriously ill on 16th March, 1917.

Base Records advised Mrs M. G. Forsyth, "Kilbride" Mansfield, Victoria on 27th March, 1917 that Private A. G. Forsyth had been admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital on 16th March, 1917 suffering from a severe illness.

Trooper Alexander Gibson Forsyth died at 11.40 am on 2nd April, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Broncho Pneumonia. (Note: Time of death of 11.40 am was reported in a Telegram from Medical Tidworth to Commandant, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. The "Morning State of Sick" (army form A 27) recorded the time of death as 11.45 am).

A death for Alexander G. Forsyth, aged 25, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Trooper Alexander Gibson Forsyth was buried on 4th April, 1917 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 315 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

*From the burial report of Trooper Alexander Gibson Forsyth - Coffin was Elm Casket, brassed mounting. The funeral took place on Wednesday morning 4th April, 1917 leaving the Tidworth Mortuary at 10.30 am. Two Officers of this Unit attended also about thirty men belonging to his Troop. Wreaths were placed on the grave from the Commanding Officer and Officers of the Light Horse Training Depot and from the N.C.O.'s and men. A Band was in attendance and the deceased was buried with full military honours.*

Mary G. Forsyth, "Kilbride" Mansfield, mother of the late Trooper Alexander Gibson Forsyth, wrote to Base Records on 9th May, 1917 with the following letter: *"We have been terribly distressed to think that we have not received any particulars of Private Alex. G. Forsyth's illness. We hear that he died on April 2, 1917. Can you tell me through whom we will be able to hear. The Defence Dept notified Rev Dow – Mansfield."*

Base Records replied to Mrs G. Forsyth on 18th May, 1917 with the following: *"....concerning the regrettable loss of you son, No. 3109 Private A. G. Forsyth, 4th Light Horse Regiment, and regret that beyond the reports already conveyed to you no further information us yet available. You should, if the stress of their work will admit, received from the Commanding Officer, or someone in close attendance with him, a letter giving such facts as are known. Needless to say anything additional received by this branch will be promptly transmitted....."*

C. M. Stodart, Barrister & Solicitor, Mansfield, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 2nd October, 1917 regarding A. G. Forsyth deceased, No. 3109 4th Light Horse Reinforcements: *"I am acting for the Executor of Will of above named deceased who is supposed to have been killed about April last. Will you please let me have official confirmation of the death which you should have by now."*

Base records replied to C. M. Stodart, Esq., on 9th October, 1917 enclosing as requested a certificate of report of the late No. 3109 Private A. G. Forsyth, 4th Light Horse Regiment.

Mr C. H. Forsyth, "Kilbride", Mansfield, Victoria, "Exec: A. G. Forsyth", wrote to Base Records on 9th October, 1917 requesting "a Certificate of Death of the late Trooper Alex. G. Forsyth No. 3109, 4th Light Horse, A.I.F. Abroad. Please let us have it as soon as possible as there has already been a considerable delay already, owing to a letter apparently going astray."

Base Records replied to Mr C. H. Forsyth on 12th October, 1917 enclosing as requested a certificate of report of the late No. 3109 Private A. G. Forsyth, 4th Light Horse Regiment.

Mr G. A Simms, "Oaklands", Jersey Avenue, Penshurst, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 18th March, 1920 requesting "*the next of kin of the following late members of the A.I.F.*"

*9671 L/C/ Smith Clement 11th FCE Died 31/12/18*

*3109 Trp Forsyth A.G, 4th ALH Died 2/4/17"*

Base Records replied to Mr G. A. Simms on 24th March, 1920 advising "*...departmental instructions preclude me from furnishing the address of the next-of-kin to the late No. 3109 Private A. G. Forsyth, 4th Light Horse Regiment and the late No. 9671 Lance-Corporal Driver C. Smith, 11th Field Company Engineers, unless a satisfactory reason for requiring same is stated.*"

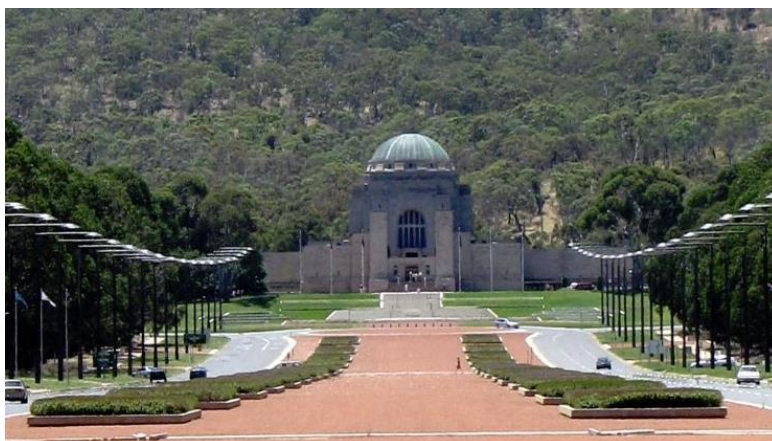
Trooper Alexander Gibson Forsyth was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Trooper Forsyth's mother - Mrs M. G. Forsyth, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Trooper Alexander Gibson Forsyth – service number 3109, of 4th Australian Light Horse. He was the son of Alexander and Mary Gibson Forsyth.

Trooper A. G. Forsyth is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 4.



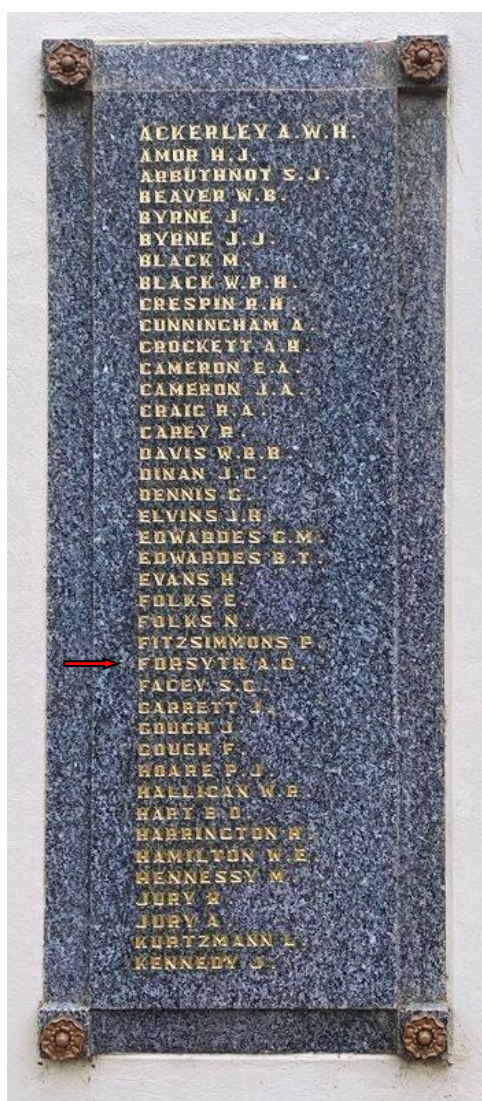
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*



A. G. Forsyth is remembered on War Memorial Gates, Mansfield Recreation Reserve, Highett Street, Mansfield, Victoria.

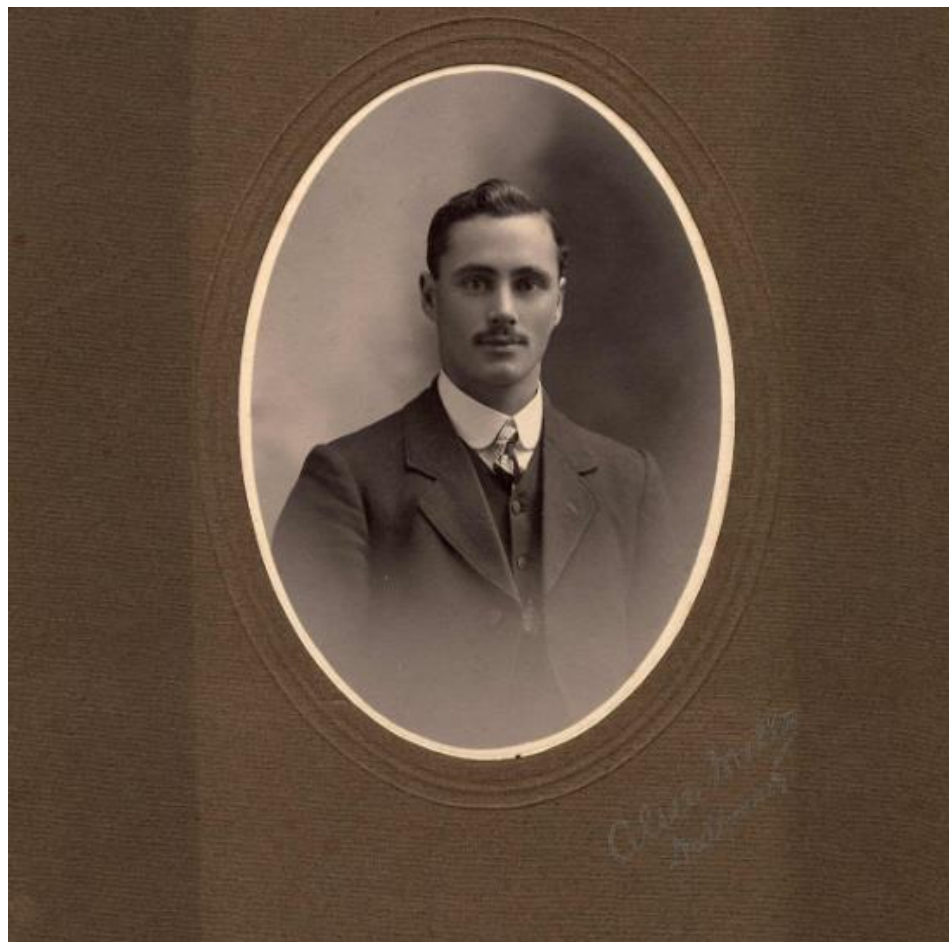
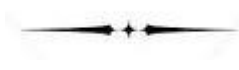


War Memorial Gates, Mansfield Recreation Reserve (Photos from Monument Australia – Fiona Morrison)



(62 pages of Trooper Alexander Gibson Forsyth'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*



**Alexander Gibson Forsyth** (State Library, Victoria – Record ID 9916642743607636)



*(Photo from VWMA – no other source recorded)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H05924

**Trooper Alexander Gibson Forsyth (c1916 – 1917)**

*Informal outdoor portrait of 3109 Trooper (Tpr) Alexander Gibson Forsyth, 4th Light Horse Regiment from Mansfield, Victoria seated on a horse. A 25 year old grazier prior to enlisting on 19 September 1916, he embarked for overseas service with the 24th Reinforcements from Melbourne aboard HMAT Orsova (A67) on 6 December 1916. Less than a month after disembarking in England, he was admitted to hospital and died of broncho pneumonia on 2 April 1917. Tpr Forsyth is buried in the Tidworth Military Cemetery, Tidworth, Wiltshire, United Kingdom.*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DIED ON SERVICE**

FORSYTH – Died of pneumonia, Lidgate Hospital, England, Pte Alex. G. Forsyth, beloved son of Mrs Forsyth, Kilbride, Mansfield; grandson Mrs Green, and nephew of Miss Gibson and Rev. J. and Mrs Smith. (Inserted by grandma, aunts, and uncle) (By cable)

“Lead, Kindly Light.”

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 April, 1917)

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### **AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**

#### **287th CASUALTY LIST**

#### **DIED OTHER CAUSES**

Pte A. G. FORSYTH, Mansfield, 2/4/17 (previously reported ill)

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 17 April, 1917)

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### **DIED ON SERVICE**

FORSYTH – On April 2, died of pneumonia, Ledgate Hospital, England, Pte Alex. Gibson Forsyth, dearly beloved younger son of Mary Gibson, and the late Alexander Forsyth, Kilbride, Mansfield; loving brother of Ida, Claud, Grace and Aileen (By cable).

So He giveth His beloved in sleep.

“For God, King, and country.”

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 April, 1917) & (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 April, 1917) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 April, 1917)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

FORSYTH – In sad and loving memory of our beloved son and brother, Trooper Alex. G. Forsyth, 4th Light Horse, A.I.F., who died of pneumonia at Delhi Military Hospital, Tidworth, England.

He is not dead, but only taking rest,

On the same holy couch where Jesus lay;

Soon to awake, all glorified and blest,

When the day dawns and the shadows flee away.

Mother, Ida Claude, Grace and Aileen.



FORSYTH – To the loving memory of my dearest grandson, Trooper Alex. G. Forsyth, 4th Light Horse, A.I.F., who died of pneumonia at Delhi Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, 2nd April, 1917.

Thy will be done.

Annie Green

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 April, 1918) & (*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 April, 1918)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

FORSYTH – To the loving memory of my dear nephew, Trooper Alex Gibson Forsyth, 4th Light Horse, A.I.F. who died of pneumonia at Delhi Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, 2nd April, 1917.

Peace, perfect peace.

-(Annie McTurk Gibson)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 April, 1918)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

FORSYTH – To the fond and loving memory of our beloved son and brother, Trooper Alex. G. Forsyth, 4th Light Horse, A.I.F., who died of pneumonia, Delhi Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, April 2, 1917.

“I was dumb; I opened not my mouth, because Thou did it.”

“The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away, Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

-(Mother, brother, and sisters)

FORSYTH – To the loving memory of our dear grandson and nephew, Trooper Alex. G. Forsyth, 4th Light Horse, A.I.F., who died of pneumonia, Delhi Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, April 2, 1917.

We long for household voices gone;

For vanished smiles we long;

But God hath led our dear ones on,

And He can do no wrong.

-(Inserted by his loving grandmother and aunt, Annie Green, Annie McTurk Gibson)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 April, 1919)

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## Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Trooper A. G. Forsyth has a Private Headstone.

## **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)*



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



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.*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

**Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919**



**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 Trooper A. G. Forsyth's Private Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photos courtesy of Selena Hardie)*





**No. 3109**

***TROOPER ALEXANDER GIBSON FORSYTH***

***4TH Light Horse, A.I.F.***

***Kilbride, Mansfield, Victoria, Australia***

***Died Delhi Military Hospital 2-4-17***

***Aged 25 Years***



