

**Southern Cemetery,  
Manchester, Lancashire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2133 PRIVATE**

**ALEXANDER EDMUND GIBSON**

**60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**25TH JULY, 1916 Age 24**

*The Path Of Duty  
Is The Way To Glory*

## Alexander Edmund GIBSON

Alexander Ernest Edmund Gibson was born at Ingliston, Victoria in 1890 to parents Alexander & Hannah Jane Gibson (nee Grose).

Alexander Edmund Gibson attended Ballarat East (Humphray St) School.

Alexander Edmund Gibson was a 24 year old, single, Grocer from Ballan, Victoria when he enlisted on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2133 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs H. J. Gibson, of Ballan, Victoria.

Private Alexander Gibson was posted to Depot Camp on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1915. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1915.

Private Alexander Edmund Gibson embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Wandilla* (A62) on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1915.

Private Alexander Gibson joined 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion from 6<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements at Anzac on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1915.

Private Alexander Gibson was sent sick to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1915 with Jaundice. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Caledonia* on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1915 & transferred to Convalescent Camp at Mudros on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1915. Private Alexander Gibson was transferred to Hospital Ship *Huntsgreen* & disembarked at Alexandria, Egypt on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1915. He rejoined his Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1916.

Private Alexander Gibson was transferred from 8th Battalion to 60th Battalion on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1916 & taken on strength the same day.

Private Alexander Gibson embarked from Alexandria on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 aboard *Kinfauns Castle* to join the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseille, France on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1916.

### 60th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24th February, 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the A.I.F. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The majority of both groups were Victorians. The new battalion formed part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 28th June, the 60th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19th July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the battalion. In a single day, it was virtually wiped out, suffering 757 casualties. These losses meant the battalion saw little further offensive action in 1916. (*Information from Australian War Memorial*).

Private Alexander Edmund Gibson was wounded in action on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1916. He was admitted to "Anglo-Amer Hospital" (Anglo-American Hospital at Cairo) on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1916 with gunshot wound to right ankle. Pte Gibson was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1916.

Private Alexander Edmund Gibson was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital (Military), Heald Place, Rusholme, Manchester, England on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1916. The Hospital report reads: "*L/Cpl. Alexander Edmund Gibson, 1805, 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion I. Forces (A Coy), aged 27 years was admitted here on July 24, 1916 suffering from Bullet wounds of right & left thighs, compound fracture of left femur & Septicaemia. The injuries were received on July 19, 1916.*"

Private Alexander Edmund Gibson died at 5.25 pm on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 at 2nd Western General Hospital (Military), Heald Place, Manchester, England from wounds received in action in France.

A death for Alexander E. Gibson, aged 27, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Chorlton, Lancashire, England.

Private Alexander Edmund Gibson was buried on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number 389.

A letter was sent to Mrs H. J. Gibson, mother of the late Pte A. E. Gibson, dated 29<sup>th</sup> May which reads:

“With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No.2133, Private A. E. Gibson, 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice from Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, London, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1919, as follows:-

- *“In the Southern Cemetery at Manchester there were buried in common graves nine deceased members of the Australian Imperial Force. The remains of these have now been exhumed from the common graves and in each case have been re-interred in separate single graves in virgin soil in a site specially set aside as an Australian plot. The work was successfully carried out last week under the supervision of a senior Non-commissioned Officer from these Headquarters, and the new graves have since been marked by the provision of the standard oak cross enamelled white with black lettering. Photographs of the new graves will be taken at an early date and sent to you for transmission to the next-of-kin.”*

Your son is now buried in Grave No.173, Section Q.”

A letter was sent from Base Records on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1920 to Mrs H. J. Gibson, of Ballan, Victoria stating that according to their records she was registered as the next-of-kin of the late Pte A. E. Gibson but according to the “Deceased Soldiers’ Estate Act of 1918” the War Medals were to be dispatched to the nearest blood relative & as Pte Gibson was single the order was for father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs Gibson replied to Base Records advising that the father of the late Pte A. E. Gibson was still alive.

Pte Alexander Edmund Gibson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Gibson’s father - Mr A. Gibson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alexander Edmund Gibson – service number 2133, aged 24, of 60th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alexander and Hannah Jane Gibson, of Ballan, Victoria, Australia. Born at Ingliston, Victoria.

Private A. E. Gibson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 169.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Gibson is named on the Horsham & District War Memorial located in Sawyer Park, Memorial Drive, Horsham, Victoria.



**Horsham & District War Memorial**

*(Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)*

|                   |                     |                    |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| GARVEY H.J.       | GRIFFEN F.A.        | HARLEY C.          |
| GARWOOD F.        | GRIFFIN W.          | † HARPER J.H.      |
| GASH R.A.         | † GRIFFITHS E.B.    | HARPER W.C.S.      |
| GASH T.L.         | † GRIMSHAW G.S.     | † HARRIS A.J.      |
| † GAST C.C. (FCG) | † GROHS R.H.        | HARRIS C.T.        |
| † GATES N.W.      | GROOME E.T.         | HARRIS J.W.        |
| GEDDES R. (MM)    | † GROOME F.W.       | † HARRIS J.W. (MM) |
| † GIBSON A.E.     | GROOME M.J.         | † HARRISON A.E.    |
| GIBSON S.         | GROSS A.E.          | † HARRISON C.      |
| GIESE A.E.        | GROSS G.F.          | HARRISON H.J.      |
| † GIFFARD P.H.    | † GROTH C.S.        | † HARRISON R.S.    |
| GILLHAM R.W.      | GROTH L.R.          | † HARROP R.M.      |
| GILLIES C.L.      | GUTHRIE F.J.        | HART P.J.          |
| GILLIES H.        | HAASE F.            | HARTIGAN J.        |
| GILLIES H.        | HAEBICH F. (DCM/MM) | HARTIGAN W.        |
| GILLIES J.L.      | HAGUE A.            | † HARVEY A.J.      |
| GILMOUR S.W.      | † HAGUE F.A.W.      | HASSALL J.J.       |
| GILSENEN H.       | † HALES E.H.L.      | HASSALL R.J.       |
| GLENISTER P.J.    | HALL R.C.           | HATELEY E.         |
| † GLOVER T.       | HALLAM E.P.         | HATELEY F.         |
| GODFREY E.H.L.    | † HALLAM H.         | HAWKINS T.L.       |
| GODFREY F.A.      | † HALLAM H.L.       | HAYWOOD W.J.       |
| GODFREY G.W.      | HALLAM J.H.         | HEAD C.A.          |
| GODLEE A.T.       | HALSTEAD H.         | HEAD E.A.F.        |
| GODWIN H.         | HAMILTON E.M.       | HEAD J.G.L.        |
| GOODGAME A.       | HAMILTON H.A.       | HEALEY B.          |
| GOODWIN A.L.      | HAMILTON J.W.       | HEALEY M.          |
| GOSLING A.        | HAMILTON R.S.       | † HEARD A.J.       |
| GOSLING M.J.      | † HAMMOND W.C.      | HEARD J.T.B.       |
| GOSSIP T.J.       | HANAN R.H.          | † HEARD N.L.       |
| † GOULD F.R.      | † HANCOCK A.J.B.    | HEBARD L.A.        |
| GOULEY R.         | † HANKS C.J.        | HELYAR J.A.        |
| GRAHAM R.W.D.     | † HANKS J.T.        | HENDERSON H.W.L.   |
| GRAINGER C.S.     | HANN C.A.           | † HENDERSON J.S.   |
| GRAMBAU O.W.      | † HANNI H.          | HENNESSY T.B.      |
| GRANDELL S.J.     | HANN N.C.           | HENRY P.           |
| GRANT F.G.H.      | † HANNAH R. (DCM)   | HERBERT A.         |
| GRANT L.          | HANNS G.R.          | HERRING A.E.L.     |
| † GRATWICK R.W.   | HANSON A.           | HESLOP A.          |
| GRAVLEY G.        | † HARBER A.E.       | HESLOP A.          |
| GRAY J.H.         | † HARDING W.O.      | † HESLOP P.W.      |
| GREAVES N.L. (MM) | HARDINGHAM C.A.     | HESSION R.         |
| GREGSON C.        | HARDINGHAM J.D.     | HEWITT A.          |
| GREWAR W.Y.       | HARGREAVES J.A.     | HICKEY G.          |

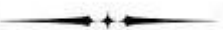
A. E. Gibson is named on the Ballan War Memorial located outside the Ballan Post Office, 125 Inglis Street, Ballan, Victoria.



**Ballan War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Nancy Alford/Sandra Brown)

(43 pages of Pte Alexander Edmund Gibson'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**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **190TH LIST**

Died of Wounds

Pte A. E. Gibson, Ballan

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 5 August, 1916)

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### **DEATH**

#### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – On 25<sup>th</sup> July, died of wounds received in action in France, Signaller Lance-Corporal A. E Gibson, the dearly beloved only son of Alex and Hannah Gibson, Ballan, and loving brother of Ester, Lena and Ethel, and loving cousin of Mrs J. N. Minns, jun., Bacchus Marsh. Aged 19 years.

His duty nobly done.

(*Melton Express*, Victoria – 6 September, 1916)

## **IN MEMORIAM**

GIBSON – In loving memory of Signaller Alex. E. , dearly loved only son of Mrs and Mrs A. Gibson, Ballan, also loving brother of Mrs Webb (Boort), Helena and Ethel, wounded at Pozieres 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, died Manchester Hospital 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

“Thy will be done.”

[Inserted by his sorrowing parents and sisters]

(*Ballan Times*, Victoria – 26 July, 1917)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Signaller Alex. E., 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion, died on July 25, 1916, from wounds received at Pozieres. (Inserted by his loving parents and sisters, Ballan).

GIBSON - In loving memory of my brave and true friend, Signaller Alex. E. Gibson, who died of wounds in Manchester Hospital, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

An Anzac.

“The memory of his beautiful life is a benediction.”

- (Inserted by Eva M. Hawkins, Goroke)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 July, 1918)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-Corporal A. E. Gibson, who died on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, from wounds received in action on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

The price of peace.

- (Inserted by mother and father, and sisters, Ballan and Boort)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 July, 1919)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of Alex. E. Gibson, who died of wounds on July 25, 1916.

An Anzac.

- (Inserted by V. Hawkins and E. Tyson)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 July, 1920)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear only son and brother, Alex. E., died on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, of wounds received in action.

The path of duty

Is the way to glory.

- (Inserted by loving parents and sisters, Ballan).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 July, 1921)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-Corporal Alex. E. Gibson, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, of wounds received at Fleurbaix.

He hath fought the good fight.

- (Inserted by loving parents and sisters, Ballan).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 July, 1922)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-Corporal Alex. E. Gibson, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, of wounds received at Fleurbaix.

Some day we shall understand.

- (Inserted by his father, mother and sisters, Ballan).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 July, 1923)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-Corporal Alex. E. Gibson, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, of wounds received at Fleurbaix.

He hath fought the good fight.

- (Inserted by his parents and sisters, Ballan).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 July, 1924)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal Alex. E. Gibson, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, of wounds received at Fleurbaix.

A tender chord of memory touched to-day.

- (Inserted by loving parents and sisters, Ballan).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 July, 1925)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal Alex. E. Gibson, who died on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, of wounds received at Fleurbaix.

He hath fought the good fight.

- (Inserted by his parents and sister, Ballan).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 July, 1926)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal Alex. E. Gibson, who died in Manchester on July 25, 1916, of wounds received in France.

The price of peace

- (Inserted by his parents and sisters, Ballan).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 July, 1927)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corpl. Alex. E. Gibson, who died of wounds received in France on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

Only one of the many, but he was our only one.

- (Inserted by his parents and sisters, Ballan).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 July, 1928)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Alex. E. Gibson, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, of wounds received in France.

The price of peace.

- (Inserted by his parents and sisters, Ballan)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 July, 1929)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GIBSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Lance-corporal Alex. E. Gibson, who died on 25th July, 1916, of wounds received in France.

- The price of peace (Inserted by his parents and sisters, Ballan).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 July, 1931)

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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)*

Pte Alexander Edmund Gibson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*The Path Of Duty*

*Is The Way To Glory*

## **Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England**

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

Casualties buried in the following cemeteries and churchyards are now alternatively commemorated on Screen Wall Memorials in Manchester Southern Cemetery:

Ashton-under-Lyne (St Michael) Churchyard Extension  
Birch-in-Rusholme (St James) Churchyard  
Bury (Brunswick) United Methodist Cemetery  
Cheetham Hill (St Luke) Churchyard  
Eccles (St Mary) Churchyard  
Ecclestone (St Thomas) Churchyard Extension  
Edgeworth Congregational Chapelyard  
Hey (or Lees) (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension  
Manchester General Cemetery  
Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery  
Openshaw (St Barnabas) Churchyard  
Swinton Unitarian Chapelyard.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*

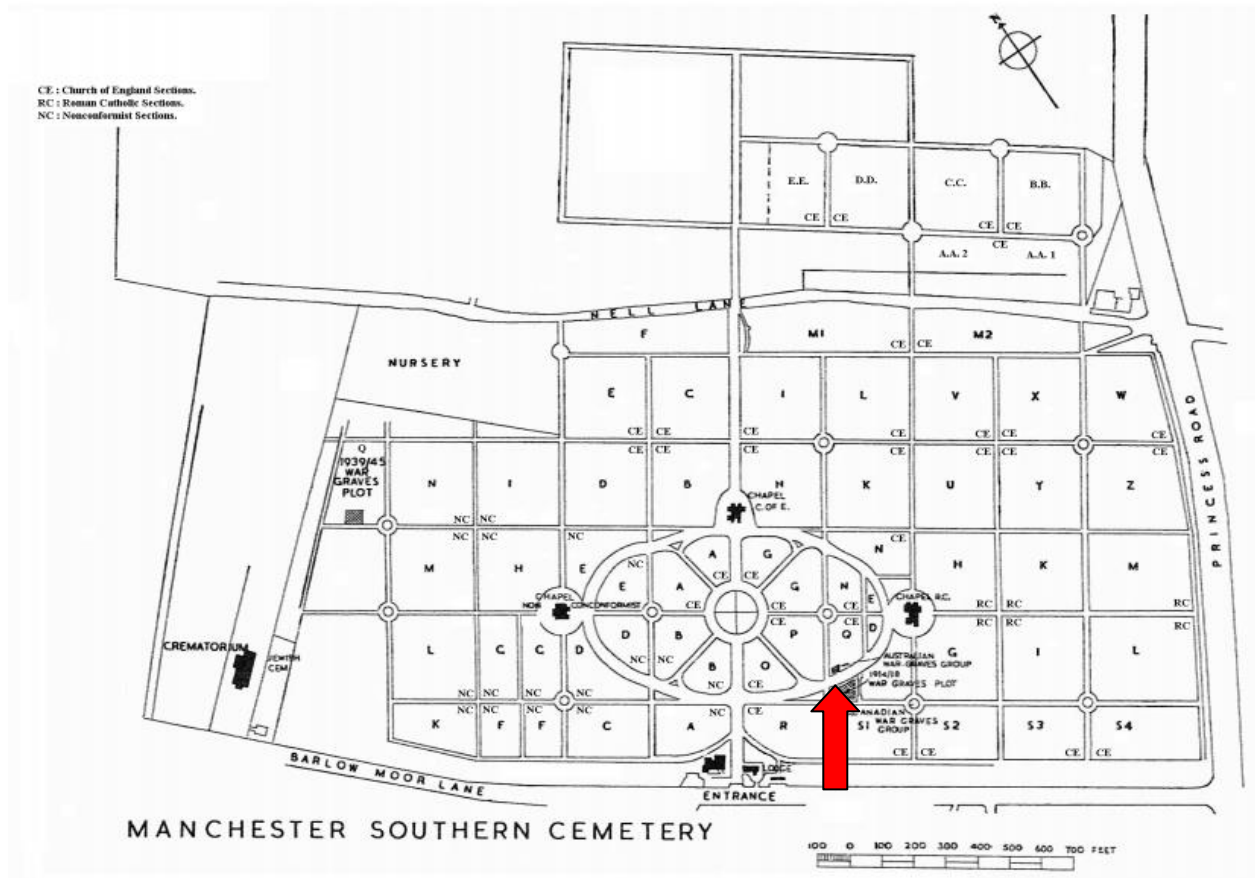


**Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1**

Photo of Pte Alexander Edmund Gibson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)*



Southern Cemetery, Manchester (Australian War Graves Group marked with arrow)

