

**St. Edith's Churchyard,  
Baverstock, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3917 PRIVATE**

**A. S. D. GIBSON**

**31ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**7TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 40**

## Andrew Shirwood Douglas GIBSON

Andrew Ross Shirwood Douglas Gibson was born at Stranraer, Wigtonshire, near Glasgow, Scotland around 1875, to parents Andrew & Margaret Dorman Gibson (nee Boyes).

The 1881 Scotland Census records Andrew Gibson as a 6 year old living with his family at 23 Greenvale Street, Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Scotland. Also listed were his parents - Andrew & Margaret Gibson (both aged 28 years), & brothers – William (aged 8) & James (aged 3).

The family arrived from Glasgow, Scotland to the port of Mackay, Queensland, Australia aboard the *Scottish Wizard* on 5th June, 1883. Andrew was listed as 6 years old.

Andrew Ross Shirwood Douglas Gibson attended State School at Mackay and some of the District State Schools (as listed on the Roll of Honour information sheet completed by his father).

The 1903 Electoral Rolls for Mackay, Queensland record Andrew Ross Sherwood Douglas Gibson, a Farmer, living at Mt. Blackwood.

Andrew Ross Shirwood Douglas Gibson married Maria Louise Grace Jordan on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1904 in Queensland. Births were registered in the following years with father as Andrew Ross Shirwood Douglas Gibson & mother Maria Louisa Grace Gibson (nee Jordan):

1904 – William Douglas Henry Gibson (born 26th October, 1904; died 1905)

1906 – James Shirwood Fredrick Gibson (born 28th July, 1906)

1908 – Lawrence Stanley Gibson (born 24th March, 1908; died 1911)

1909 – Margaret Grace Mary Jane Gibson (born 10th May, 1909).

A death was registered for Andrew Gibson's wife - Maria Louisa Grace Gibson (nee Jordan) died on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1910 in Queensland.

The 1913 Electoral Rolls for Mackay, Queensland record Andrew Sherwood Douglas Gibson living at Racecourse & his occupation was Farmer.

Andrew Shirwood Douglas Gibson was a 39 year old, widowed, Farmer from Finch Hatton, Mackay, Queensland when he enlisted on 6th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3917 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Robert Boyes Gibson of Farleigh Estate, Mackay, Queensland.

Private Andrew Shirwood Douglas Gibson was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 10th March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 19th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion on 12th April, 1916 then transferred on 20th April, 1916 to 7th Reinforcements of 31st Battalion. Private Gibson was transferred to Reserve Company on 26th April, 1916. He was sent to Cpls School on 12th June, 1916 then transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 31st Battalion on 10th August, 1916.

Private Andrew Sherwood Douglas Gibson (name as listed on Embarkation Roll) embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Seang Choon (A49)* on 19th September, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 31st Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th December, 1916.

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 Andrew S. D. Gibson was marched in to "C" Company, 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Rearguard on 15th December, 1916

Private Andrew S. D. Gibson was admitted sick to Fovant Hospital, Wiltshire on 27th December, 1917.

Private Andrew S. D. Gibson died at 9.35 p.m. on 7th January, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Broncho - Pneumonia.

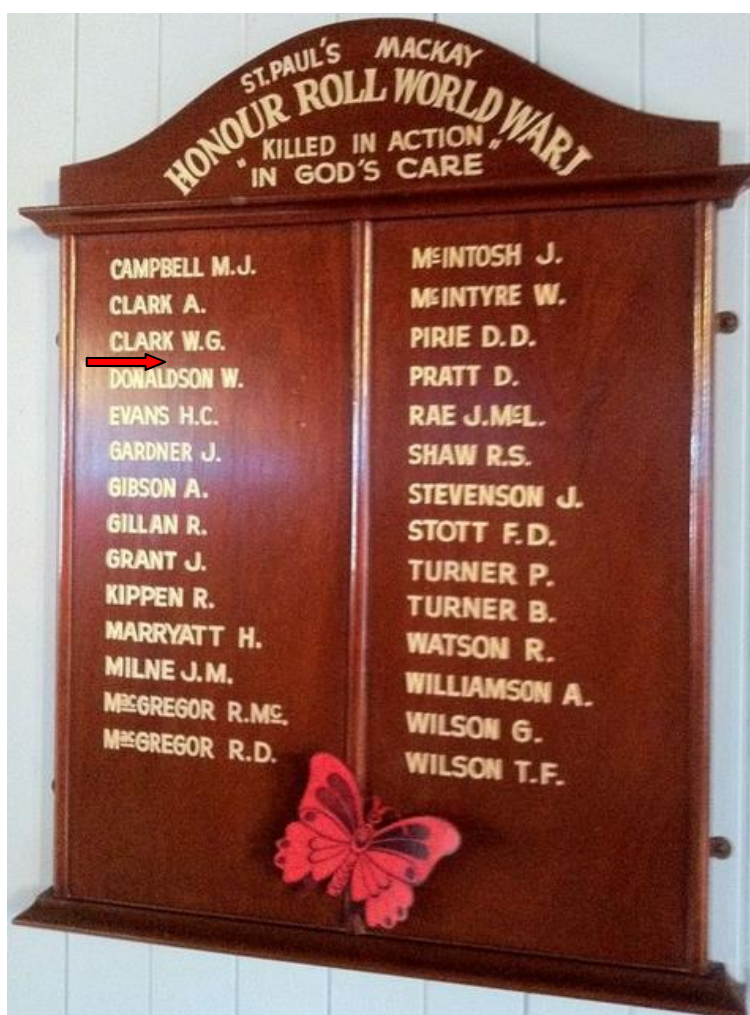
A death for Andrew S. D. Gibson, aged 40, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Andrew S. D. Gibson was buried on 10th January, 1917 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

Private A. S. D. Gibson 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 Private Gibson's son – James F. Gibson (September, 1921 & July, 1922). A letter from Private Andrew Gibson's brother, dated 25th April, 1921, in a reply to Base Records regarding the eldest surviving next-of-kin, advised that the late Private A. S. D. Gibson had 2 children living – James Gibson, the eldest & Margaret Gibson.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Andrew Gibson – service number 3917, as being 40 years old & served with 31st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Andrew and Margaret Dorman Boys (should be Boyes) Gibson. Born at Stranraer, Wigtonshire, Scotland.

A. Gibson is also remembered on St. Paul's Uniting Church WW1 Honour Board 1914 – 1918 located in St. Paul's Uniting Church, 25 MacAlister Street, Mackay, Queensland.



**St. Paul's Uniting Church WW1 Honour Board**

*(Photo from Queensland War Memorial Register – Glen Hall, Mackay Historical Society)*

Private A. S. D. Gibson is also remembered on the Mackay WW1 Cenotaph 1914 – 1919 located in Jubilee Park, Alfred Street, Mackay, Queensland.



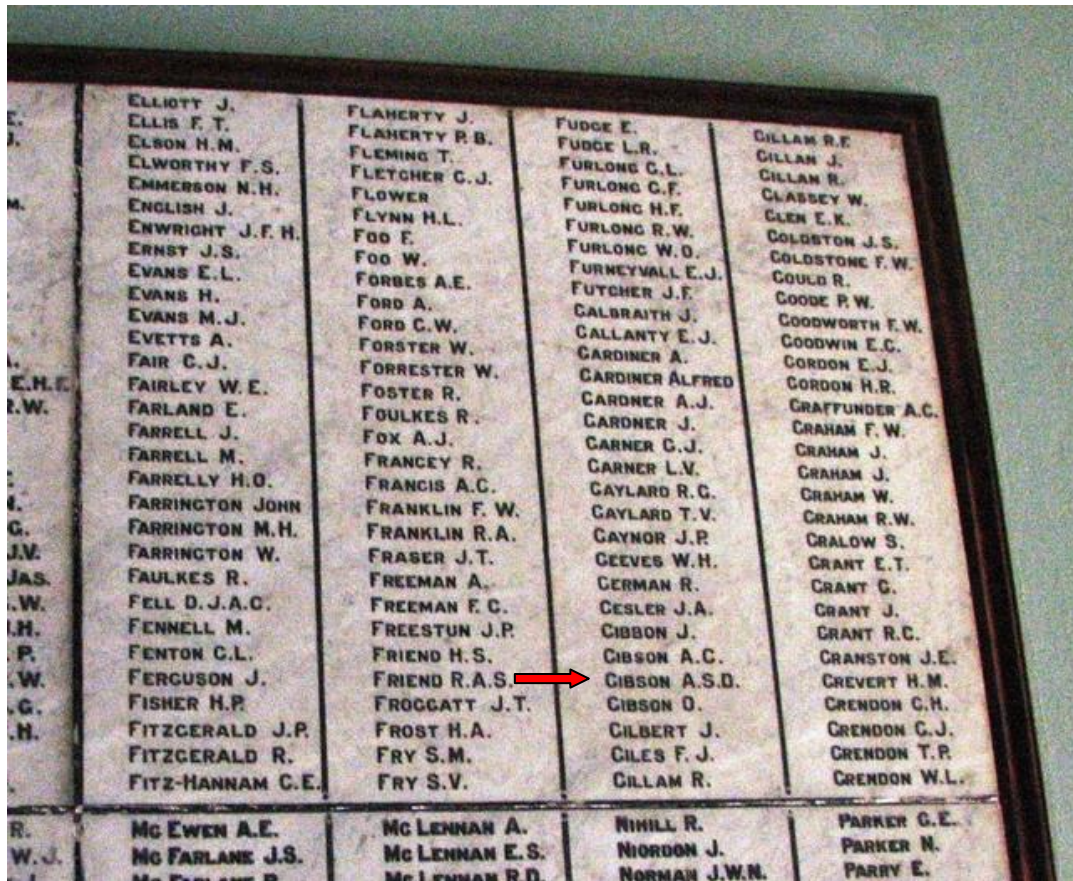
**Mackay WW1 Cenotaph** (Photos from Queensland War Memorial Register – Glen Hall, Mackay Historical Society)

Private A. S. D. Gibson is also remembered on the Mackay Old Town Hall Honour Board located in Old Mackay Town Hall foyer, Sydney Street, Mackay, Queensland.

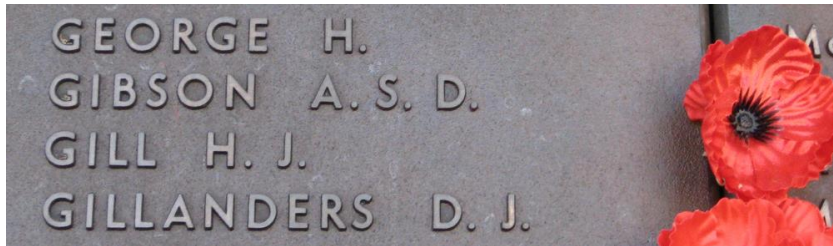


**Mackay Old Town Hall Honour Board**

(Photos from Queensland War Memorial Register – Glen Hall, Mackay Historical Society)



Private A. S. D. Gibson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 118.

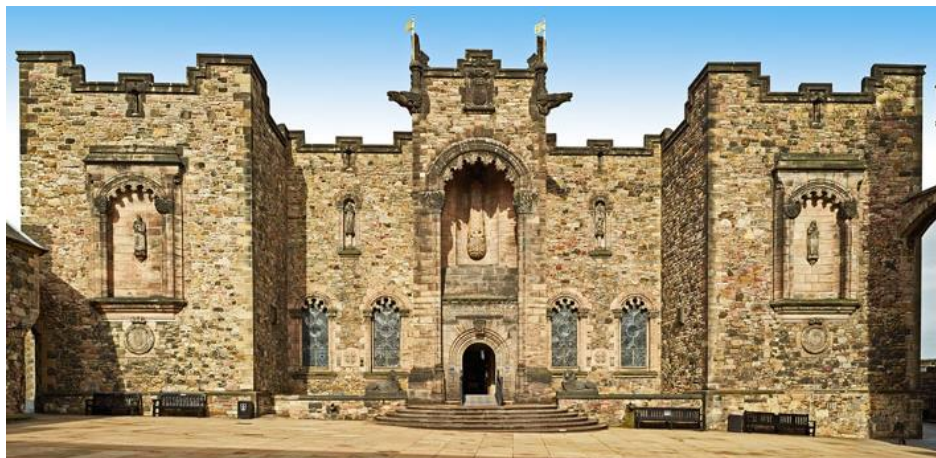


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private Andrew Shirwood Douglas Gibson is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



**The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.**

*(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)*



(37 pages of Private Andrew Shirwood Douglas Gibson's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



## IN MEMORY

Andrew Sherwood Douglas

Gibson

(Private 3197)

31st Infantry Battalion

AIF



1877-1917



### Newspaper Reports

#### THE ROLL OF HONOUR

QUEENSLAND - Died of Illness

A. S. D. Gibson, Mackay; 7/1/17

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – Tuesday 23 January, 1917)

### 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 at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 28th June, 1921, to Master J. Gibson advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte A. S. D. Gibson had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private A. S. D. Gibson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England**

St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock contains 32 World War 1 War Graves – 3 London Regiment Graves in the south-west corner & 29 Australian War Graves.



**St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock** *(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts)*





**St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock** (Photos courtesy of Helen Roberts)



Photo of Private A. S. D. Gibson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)*