

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



8009 CORPORAL

W. J. GILES

AUSTRALIAN TUNNELLERS

17TH MARCH, 1918

Deeply Regretted

William James GILES

William James Giles was born at Ballarat, Victoria on 6th April, 1884 to parents James Samuel and Louisa Giles (nee Preece). He was baptised on 1st June, 1884 in Victoria.

William James Giles attended Eureka St. State School, Ballarat, Victoria.

According to information provided for the Roll of Honour by his wife – William James Giles had served with Ballarat Militia.

William James Giles married Louisa Margaret Timms in 1905 at Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. The following children were born – Reginald James Giles (born 2nd November, 1905 at Kalgoorlie); Geoffrey William Giles (born 2nd June, 1908) & Nancy Viola Giles (born 1913).

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Perth, subdivision of West Perth, Western Australia recorded William James Giles, Labourer & Louisa Margaret Giles, living at 14 Mary Street.

The 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Perth, subdivision of West Perth, Western Australia recorded William James Giles, Labourer & Louisa Margaret Giles, living at 84 Railway Parade.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, subdivision of West Perth, Western Australia recorded William James Giles, Labourer & Louisa Margaret Giles, living at 256 Havelock Street.

William James Giles was aged 32 years & 11 months, married & a Labourer from West Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 19th March, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 8009 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs L. M. Giles, 256 Havelock Street, West Perth, Western Australia.

Private William James Giles was posted to D 3 Depot on 22nd March, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to X Depot on 16th April, 1917. Private Giles was transferred to Tunnelling Company on 16th May, 1917 with the rank of Corporal. He was promoted to rank of Corporal on 16th June, 1917 with Tunnelling Reinforcements.

Corporal William James Giles was sent to Isolation Camp, Ascot Vale on 25th August, 1917. He was posted to Tunnellers Company at Bendigo from 28th September, 1917. Corporal Giles was posted to Tunnellers at Seymour from 2nd November, 1917.

Sapper (rank as listed by Embarkation Roll) / (Voyage only) Corporal William James Giles embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 21st November, 1917 with the Tunnelling Companies, May 1917 Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 15th December, 1917.

Tunnelling Companies

The primary tasks of the Tunnelling Companies were the construction of tunnels and mines for offensive action against the enemy, detection and interruption of the enemy's counter-mining efforts, and the construction of underground dugouts to accommodate large groups of men, in many cases whole battalions of 1,000 men including Battalion Headquarters.

(Information from Tunnellers.Net)

(Voyage only) Corporal William James Giles entrained from Australian Camp at Suez for Alexandria on 4th January, 1918 & arrived at Australian Camp at Gabbary on 5th January, 1918. He embarked on Transport E 620 from Abbasiah on 8th January, 1918 & disembarked at Taranto on 12th January, 1918. From Taranto he disembarked at Southampton, England on 24th January, 1918.

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.

(Voyage only) Corporal William James Giles was marched in to No. 3 Camp Details at Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England on 24th January, 1918 from Australia.

(Voyage only) Corporal William James Giles reverted to the rank of Sapper on 24th January, 1918 on being marched in to No. 3 Camp Details at Parkhouse, Wiltshire.

Sapper William James Giles was appointed E.D.P (Extra Duty Pay) Corporal on 25th January, 1918 while posted at No. 3 Camp Details at Parkhouse, Wiltshire.

Corporal William James Giles was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 14th March, 1918 – dangerously ill with Pneumonia.

Corporal William James Giles died at 4.10 am on 17th March, 1918 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Lobar Pneumonia.

A death for William J. Giles, aged 33, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Corporal William James Giles was buried on 19th March, 1918 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 241 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal William James Giles - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The body was conveyed to the Cemetery on a gun carriage accompanied by a band, firing party of 12 and 6 pallbearers. His company officers and a good number of his comrades were present. Full military honours were paid to the deceased. A wreath presented by his comrades was placed upon the grave.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal William James Giles contains a letter from Sister C. Upper, Tidworth Military Hospital which reads: *“The above was transferred to my ward the afternoon after he was admitted into hospital with acute pneumonia. He came in to hospital at the acute stage, and told me himself, the day before he died “that he hated reporting sick” – and no doubt worked on far too long. It was impossible for him under these circumstances to pull through. Pte Giles was doing Tem. Quarter Master Sergeants Duties – no doubt reverting to a private on drafting to France. He was an exceedingly nice man and worried over leaving his work. After his death an officer came up to see me (one from his corps) I told him I had already written fairly fully to his wife and he was going to write to her, giving my name and that of his Medical Officer. He died very peacefully in the early morning – sent no special message to any relative and I know (as all soldiers have) had a Military funeral with men of his regiment following. His personal treasures will be sent or rather have been sent home. I hope these small details will help to brighten his friends at home. Both for my staff and myself I can say we all made his last hours as comfortable as possible, but he was not able to recover. Please accept for his friends our sympathy.”*

William James Giles requested in his Will dated 3rd October, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his civil and Military Property & effects be given to his wife – Louisa Margaret Giles, of 256 Havelock St, West Perth, Western Australia.

The 5th Military District Paymaster wrote to Base Records on 6th May, 1918 regarding Private W. J. Giles, No. 8009: *“The above-mentioned soldiers, now deceased, who embarked on 21.11.17 is stated to have been promoted to Corporal. Can you confirm this ?”*

The Young Men’s Christian Association of Perth wrote to Base Records on 12th July, 1918 requesting the Death Certificate for Corporal William James Giles, No. 8009 May Reinforcements, Tunnellers Corp. The Death Certificate was despatched by Base Records on 29th July, 1918.

The 5th Military District Paymaster wrote to Base Records on 23rd July, 1918 regarding Private W. J. Giles, No. 8009: *“The wife of the above soldier states in her claim for Pension, that her husband held the rank of sergeant at the time of his decease. Notification of Casualty shows rank of Corporal. Can you confirm either of above ranks?”*

Two photographs of the grave of the late Corporal William James Giles were forwarded to Mrs L. M. Giles, 256 Havelock Street, West Perth, Western Australia, on 17th February, 1919 from Base Records.

Corporal William James Giles 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 Corporal Giles' widow – Mrs L. M. Giles, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal William James Giles – service number 8009, of Australian Tunnelling Corps. He was the son of James Samuel and Louisa Giles; husband of L. M. Giles, of 56 Havelock St., West Perth.

Corporal W. J. Giles is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 26.



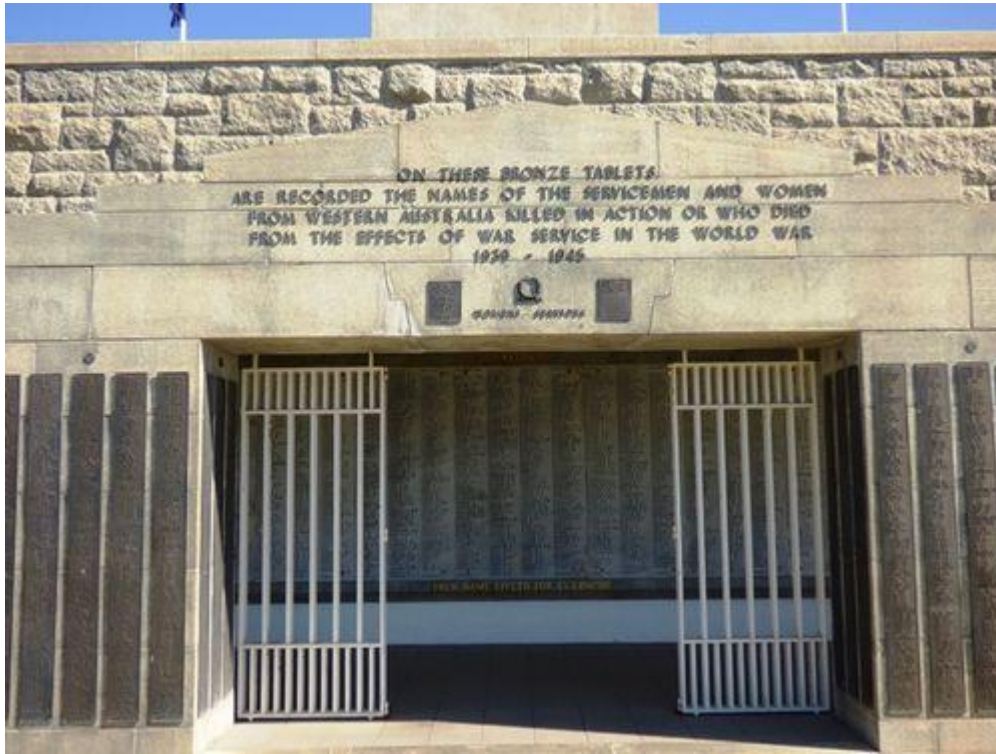
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. J. Giles is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

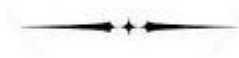
(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



Corps of Engineers Panel *(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)*

(53 pages of Corporal William James Giles' 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

CUPID'S CHAIN

William James Giles, Kalgoorlie, to Louisa Maragret Timms, Kalgoorlie.

(The Evening Star, Boulder, Western Australia – 1 June, 1905)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

387th CASUALTY LIST

DIED CAUSE NOT STATED

Cpl. Giles, Wm.. Jas (Perth)

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 1 April, 1918)

DEATHS

GILES – On March 17, at Tidworth Military Hospital, England, of pneumonia, Corporal William James Giles, dearly loved husband of L. M., father of Reg., Geoff., and Nancy, Aged 34 years. Deeply regretted.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 26 April, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GILES – In memory of my dear husband, Sergeant William James Giles, who died in Tidworth Military Hospital, England, March 17, 1918.

Ever to be regretted by his wife and children, 256 Havelock-street, West Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 17 March, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GILES – In memory of my dear husband, Sergeant William James Giles, who died in Tidworth Military Hospital, England, March 17, 1918.

Ever to be regretted by his wife and children, 256 Havelock-street, West Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 17 March, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GILES – In memory of my dear husband, Sergeant William James Giles, who died in Tidworth Military Hospital, England, March 17, 1918.

Ever to be regretted by his wife and children, 256 Havelock-street, West Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 17 March, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GILES – In memory of my dear husband, Sergeant W. J. Giles, who died in Tidworth Military Hospital, England, March 17, 1918. Father of Reg, Geof, and Nancy.

Ever to be regretted by his wife and children of 256 Havelock-street, West Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 17 March, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GILES – In memory of my dear husband, William James Giles, who died in Tidworth Military Hospital, England, March 17, 1918.

Ever to be regretted by his wife and children, 256 Havelock-street, West Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 17 March, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GILES – In memory of my dear husband, Sergeant William James Giles, who died in Tidworth Military Hospital, England, March 17, 1918.

Ever to be regretted.

Inserted by his wife and children, 256 Havelock-street, West Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 17 March, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GILES – In memory of Sergeant William James Giles, husband of the late Louisa Margaret Giles, who died at Tidworth Hospital, England, March 17, 1918, loving father of Reg. Geoff, and Nancy.

Inserted by his loving children.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 17 March, 1925)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GILES – In memory of Sergeant W. J. Giles, who died at Tidworth Military Hospital on March 17, 1918.

Inserted by his loving children, Reg. Geoff, and Nancy.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 17 March, 1925)

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)

Corporal W. J. Giles does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Deeply Regretted

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

D00481

Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

A corner of the Australian cemetery.

Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.



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



(Photo courtesy of *Portsmouth Remembers* – Kevin)



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



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

Photo of Corporal W. J. Giles' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

