

**St. James Churchyard Cemetery,
Dover, Kent
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



PS/6146 PRIVATE

GORDON S. S. GILMAN

18TH BN. ROYAL FUSILIERS

6TH FEBRUARY, 1917

*He Laid Down His Life For His Mother
Country, And For His Native Land*

Gordon Selwyn GILMAN

Gordon Saunderson Selwyn Gilman was born on 15th June, 1886 at Goulburn, New South Wales, Australia to parents Richard James & Mary Mercy Gilman (nee Seaborn).

Newspaper Birth Notice – *The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW, Australia – 19 June, 1886:

Births

GILMAN – June 15, at Bradley-street, Goulburn, the wife of Richard J. Gilman, of a son.

Mary Mercy Gilman, mother of Gordon, died on 24th October, 1903 at Ryde, NSW.

Gordon Selwyn Gilman enlisted in the British Army in London, England. He was posted to 18th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers with a Regimental Number of PS/6146. Private Gilman entered a Theatre of War on 14th November, 1915. (as recorded on his Medal Index Card – see below)

18th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers

The 18th (1st Public Schools) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of Lindon Regiment) was raised at Epsom on 11th September 1914 by the Public Schools & University Men's Force. Following initial training near home, on the 26th June, 1915 they joined 98th Brigade, 33rd Division. The Division concentrated at Clipstone camp near Mansfield in Nottinghamshire in July, 1915. In August, 1915 they moved to Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire for final training & firing practice. They proceeded to France in November, 1915 & by the 21st the 33rd Division had concentrated near Morbecque, being strengthened by the exchange of 98th Brigade for the experienced 19th Brigade from 2nd Division & on 27th November, the 1st Public Schools Battalion transferred to 19th Brigade. On the 26th February, 1916 the battalion transferred to GHQ & was disbanded on 24 April, 1916 with many of the men being commissioned.

(18th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers information from The Wartime Memories Project)

Private Gordon Selwyn Gilman was transferred to 31st (Training Reserve) Battalion, London Regiment with a Regimental number of TR/10/24976.

[In September, 1940, as a result of a fire by an incendiary bomb at the War Office Record Store, Arnside Street, London, England approximately two thirds of 6.5 million soldiers' documents for World War 1 UK Soldiers were destroyed. It appears that Private Gordon Selwyn Gilman's records were destroyed.]

Private Gordon Selwyn Gilman died on 6th February, 1917 at Military Hospital, Dover, Kent, England from disease - Pleurisy.

A death for Gordon S. Gilman, aged 30, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Dover, Kent, England.

Private Gordon Selwyn Gilman was buried in St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England – Plot number L. H. 16 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper Article – *The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia – 6 April, 1917:

MEN WHO FELL

G. S. S. GILMAN. — Mr. Richard J. Gilman, of Mosman, has received news of the death of his youngest son, Gordon Saunderson Selwyn. When war broke out he was staying with his relatives in England, enlisted at once in the Royal Fusiliers, was for months in the trenches till wounded in the foot, but returned again to fight. His colonel recommended him for a commission, and he went to Oxford University where he was successful, but was unable to go back to the trenches owing to fever. He was signalling at Dover, where he contracted pleurisy, and died in the Dover Hospital. Hugh Rusden and Ellis Gilman are also in the fighting line, brothers of the deceased. Two sons-in-law of Mr. R. J. Gilman are engaged in military duties in Australia.

The UK Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914 – 1919 recorded Private Gordon Selwyn Gilman, TR/10/24976, of 31st (Training Reserve) Battalion, London Regiment, formerly PS/6146 18th Royal Fusiliers. His residence was Reigate.

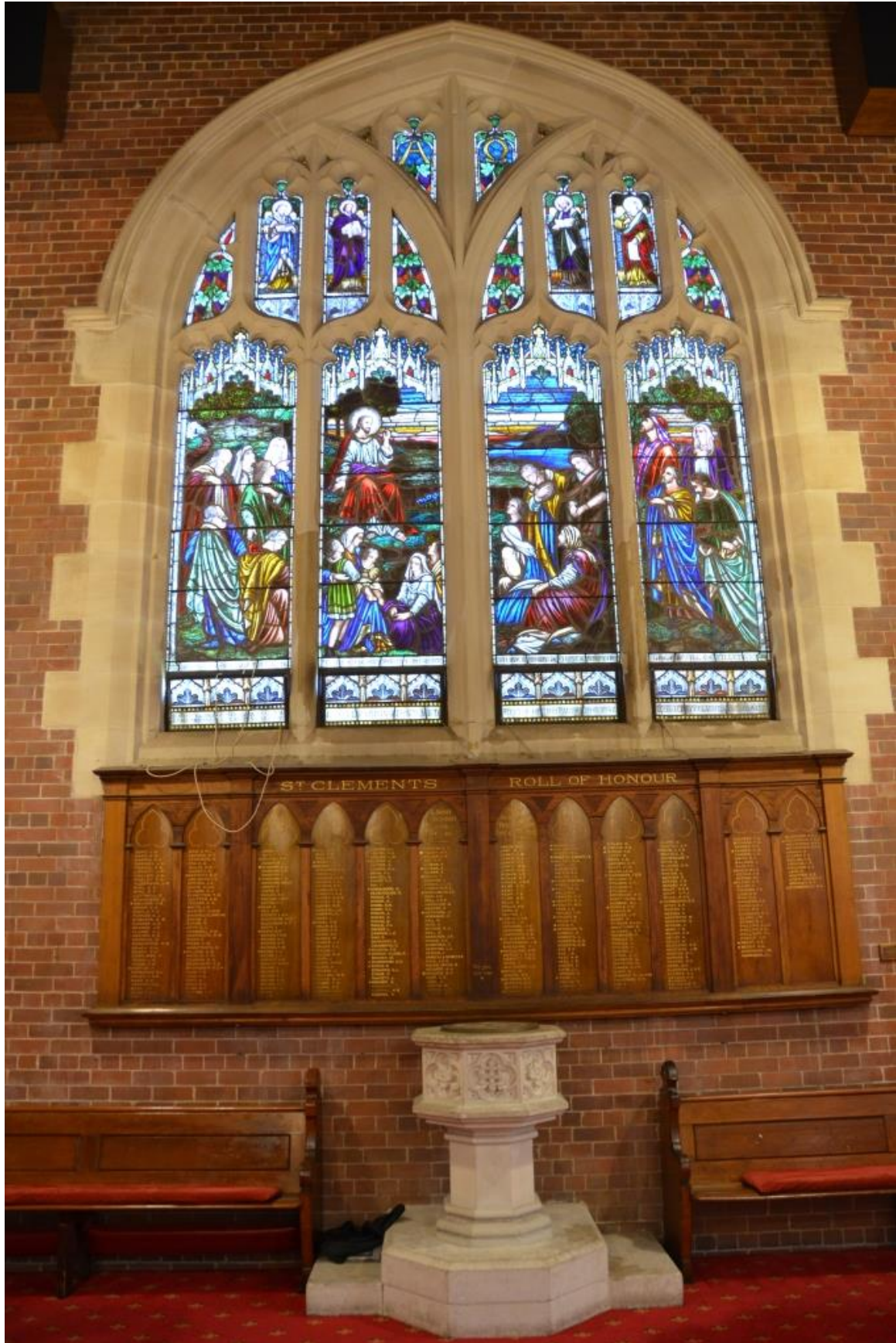
The Medal Index Card for Private Gordon S. Gilman recorded he entered a Theatre of War on 14th November, 1915 & was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

| Name. | Corps. | Rank. | Regtl. No. |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------|------------------------|
| GILMAN | R Fus 24/TR/BN | Pte | PS/6146 TR/10/24976 |
| Gordon, S. | | | |
| Medal. | Roll. | Page. | Remarks. |
| VICTORY | 6/1/105 ^B | 888 | Dof D. |
| BRITISH | do | do | |
| 15 STAR | E/1/10 | C/9 | |
| Theatre of War first served in | (1) | | |
| Date of entry therein | 14-11-15 | | |

K. 1380

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private G. S. Gilman – service number PS/6146, of 18th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. He was the son of Mr R. J. Gilman, of “Chudleigh”, Magic St., Mosman, Sydney, New South Wales.

G. Gilman is remembered on St. Clement's Anglican Church First World War Roll of Honour, located in St Clement's Anglican Church, 144 Raglan Street, Mosman, New South Wales, Australia.



St. Clement's Anglican Church First World War Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Mosman Library)

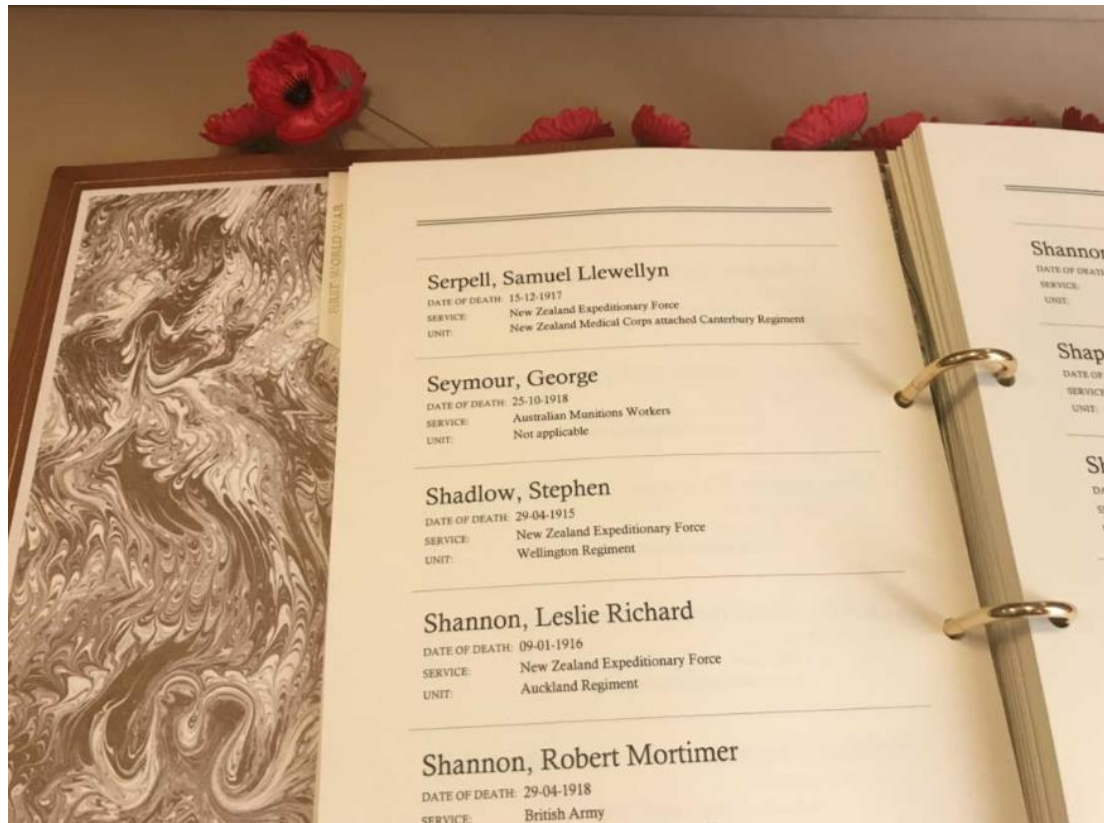
Private Gordon Selwyn Gilman, PX/6146, 18th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (Capital Photographer)



Example of entries in Commemorative Book

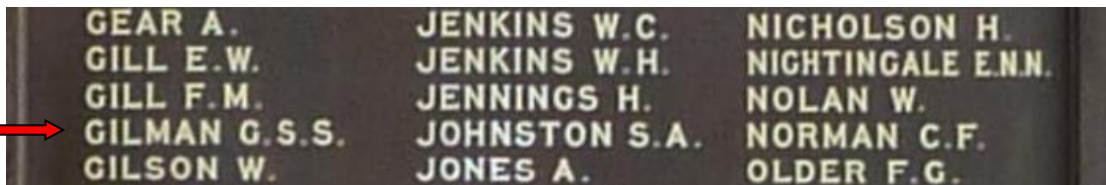
Gordon Saunderson Selwyn Gilman is remembered by the “*Doing our bit*” Mosman 1914 – 1918 project developed by Mosman Library Service.



G. S. S. Gilman is remembered on Borough of Reigate Honour Board located in Reigate & Banstead Council Offices, Castlefield Road, Reigate, Surrey, England.



Borough of Reigate Honour Board



G. S. S. Gilman is remembered on St. Mary's WW1 and Church Lads Brigade Honour Roll, located in Church Chancel at St. Mary's Church, Chart Lane, Reigate, Surrey, England.



St. Mary's Church, Reigate (Photo above by Ian Capper; below from St. Mary's Church, Reigate)





St. Mary's WW1 Honour Roll (Photo kindly sent from St. Mary's Church, Reigate)

Information obtained from the CWGC & Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll)



Newspaper Items

ROLL OF HONOUR

GILMAN – February 6, 1917, in hospital at Dover, England, of pleurisy, Private Gordon Saunderson Selwyn Gilman, beloved youngest son of R. J. Gilman, Chudleigh, Magic-street, Mosman.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Australia – 24 March, 1917)

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.

Private Gordon S. S. Gilman has a Private Headstone.

St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England

St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover contains 719 identified casualties. There are 8 Australian servicemen from World War 1 buried here – 7 Australian Imperial Force soldiers & 1 Royal Flying Corps.

During the First World War, Dover was a port of embarkation for troops bound for the Western Front and between August 1914 and August 1919 some 1,300,000 Commonwealth sick and wounded were landed there. The port was bombed in 1915 and again in August 1916.

There are 373 identified burials of the 1914-1918 war here. In addition there are 19 unidentified burials, 9 of whom can be named as victims of the Zeebrugge Raid, and these 9 are inscribed on a Special Memorial on the Cross of Sacrifice in the Zeebrugge Plot.

In 1940, Dover was the headquarters for the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk and nearly 200,000 of the 366,000 British and Allied troops brought back during the operation were landed there. Throughout the war Dover was a particular target for the long range guns on the French coast and between September 1939 and May 1945 there were no less than 742 attacks by air raid and shelling.

Most of the 356 Second World War burials are contained in a special war graves plot at the far end of the cemetery. The plot, known as the Dunkirk plot, contains many graves from the Dunkirk operation. 22 of these burials are unidentified. There are also 8 Foreign National war burials and 3 non war service burials in the cemetery.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover



Photo of Private Gordon S. S. Gilman's Private Headstone in St. James' Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England.



(Photo from BillionGraves)



In
Loving Memory
Of
Private GORDON S. S. GILMAN
18th Battn Royal Fusiliers
Son of Richard James Gilman
Born 15th June 1886
Goulburn, New South Wales, Australia
Died 6th Feby 1917
*He Laid Down His Life For his Mother
Country, And for His Native Land*