

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



59358 PRIVATE

A. J. GOURLAY

N.Z. WELLINGTON REGT.

1ST NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 44

Albert John GOURLAY

Albert John Gourlay was born on 31st July, 1881 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia to parents John Ebenezer Gourlay & Jesse Bruce Gourlay (nee Bell).

Albert John Gourlay was an Australian Rules footballer player & played football for West Melbourne between 1899 & 1903.

Albert John Gourlay entered the VFL (Victorian Football League) playing for the Melbourne Club in 1903 & playing 3 games & scoring 1 goal. He was aged 22.

Albert John Gourlay played for Carlton Football Club in 1904 playing 3 games – Round 8, Round 9 & Round 10.

From the History of the Carlton Football Club (extract):

The only Carlton player to be killed in action while serving in the armed forces of another country during World War 1, Albert John 'Bert' Gourlay played a total of six VFL matches with Melbourne and Carlton during 1903 and 1904. When his football career voluntarily ended, Gourlay emigrated to New Zealand, and later enlisted to fight with the NZ army at the height of the Great War in 1917. In November 1918, he was severely wounded in action in France, and died in hospital only ten days before the ceasefire.

Gourlay was born at Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) on July 31, 1881. He grew into an athletic young man, and a capable footballer with VFA club West Melbourne. In 1903 he joined Melbourne in the VFL, playing three matches and kicking a solitary goal as the Fuchsias struggled in the early rounds of the VFL's seventh year. Bert didn't play in a winning side with the Red and Blues, and left before the half-way point of the season.

In 1904 Gourlay found his way to Princes Park, where Carlton coach Jack Worrall had let it be known that he was prepared to give opportunities to any footballer with confidence in their ability. Bert made his debut for Carlton at the Brunswick St. Oval in June, when the fourth-placed Blues took on ladder-leaders Fitzroy in a cracker of a match that eventually went to the Maroons by 4 points.

Gourlay celebrated the only win of his VFL career the next week, when Carlton overwhelmed South Melbourne by 24 points at Princes Park. Running off half-back, he combined well with the Blues' other defenders, and held his place in Carlton's team for his third senior match against Geelong. A strong breeze off Corio Bay greeted the teams as they ran out for that game, and right from the first bounce Geelong had most of the play. But their wayward kicking for goal (they had 15 scoring shots to Carlton's 10) allowed the Blues to force a somewhat lucky draw, and Bert Gourlay's career at Carlton wound up impeccably balanced at one win, one loss and one draw.

In the years after Bert's departure from Princes Park, Jack Worrall forged a mighty football team, one destined to win three flags in a row from 1906 to 1908. By then, Gourlay was far away across the Tasman in New Zealand, where he married in 1909, and settled into his working life as a commercial traveller around the city of Wellington.

Albert John Gourlay married Emma Randle Collie (widow) on 5th April, 1909 at Wellington, New Zealand (as recorded in his Service Record file). Albert John Gourlay married Emma Randle Porteous in New Zealand in 1909 (as listed NZ Births, Deaths & Marriages Online). Emma Randle Porteous (nee Collie) had a daughter – Bertha Winifred Constance Porteous on 3rd September, 1903 to husband William Roland Porteous. (as listed NZ Births, Deaths & Marriages Online).

A Son, Percival Randle Gourlay was born on 6th May, 1910 at Wellington, New Zealand.

The 1911 New Zealand Electoral Roll for the division of Wellington, subdivision of Wellington Central, recorded Albert John Gourlay, Canvasser, from 109 Dixon Street.

Albert John Gourlay stated he was a 42 year old (his birth was registered in 1881), married, Canvasser (with Temperance & General Insurance Company) from 8B Boston Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand when he enlisted on 31st May, 1917 at Town Hall, Wellington, New Zealand with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (N.Z.E.F.). His service number was 59358 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. R. Gourlay, 8B Boston Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand.

Albert John Gourlay stated in his Attestation Papers that he had been a resident in New Zealand for 13 years. His parents were deceased (both born in Glasgow, Scotland) & had never been residents of New Zealand.

Private Albert John Gourlay was posted to "B" Company, 30th Reinforcements for recruit training on 27th June, 1917. He was transferred to "B" Company, 29th Reinforcements on 25th July, 1917.

Private Albert John Gourlay embarked with Transport 92 (HMNZT Ruahine) from Wellington, New Zealand on 15th August, 1917. He disembarked at Glasgow, Scotland on 2nd October, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia & New Zealand. 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 Albert John Gourlay was marched in & posted to 4th Reserve, Wellington Infantry Regiment at Sling, England on 3rd October, 1917.

Sling Camp

Sling Camp was a World War 1 camp occupied by New Zealand soldiers beside the then-military town of Bulford on the Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England.

The camp was initially created as an annexe to Bulford Camp in 1903; it was originally named "Sling Plantation" after the nearby woods. Soon after the beginning of World War I, New Zealand troops started work on building wooden huts here. They were later joined by Canadian troops, joiners, bricklayers, and civilian workers. The word "Plantation" was then dropped from the title and it simply became Sling Camp. After building was completed, it was said that if each hut were placed end-to-end they would measure 6 miles.

In 1916, the camp was occupied by New Zealand forces and was then known as Anzac Camp by some. It then comprised four main sections: Auckland, Wellington, Otago, and Canterbury Lines. It was officially called the 4th New Zealand Infantry Brigade Reserve Camp, and trained reinforcements and casualties who were regaining fitness.

In 1918, there were 4,300 men at Sling. Soon after this date the camp suffered large casualties as a result of the Spanish influenza.

(Extract from Wikipedia)

Private Albert John Gourlay was admitted to Hospital at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 9th November, 1917 & was discharged & rejoined 4th Reserve, Wellington Infantry Regiment at Sling on 19th November, 1917.

Private Albert John Gourlay was marched out to Tidworth on 21st November, 1917 & marched back in to Sling on 30th November, 1917.

Private Albert John Gourlay left Sling Camp on 26th December, 1917 for France. He was marched in to NZ A.G.B.D. (New Zealand General Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 30th December, 1917.

Private Albert John Gourlay joined 2nd Battalion, W.I.R. (Wellington Infantry Regiment) in the Field on 17th January, 1918 & was posted to 17th Company.

Private Albert John Gourlay was detached to Birr Cross Roads Baths from 20th January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 24th February, 1918.

Private Albert John Gourlay was sent sick to Hospital on 21st June, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd New Zealand Field Ambulance on 21st June, 1918. Private Gourlay was transferred to No. 1 New Zealand Field Ambulance on 1st July, 1918 then transferred to No. 2 New Zealand Field Ambulance the same day. He was transferred & admitted to 3/2 Lancs Field Ambulance on 2nd July, 1918 & discharged to his Unit on 6th July, 1918.

Private Albert John Gourlay was wounded in action on 1st October, 1918. He was admitted to No. 2 New Zealand Field Ambulance on 1st October, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head. Private Gourlay was transferred & admitted to 49th Casualty Clearing Station on 1st October, 1918 with G.S.W. – multiple. He was transferred &

admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 3rd October, 1918. Private Gourlay was invalided to England on 5th October, 1918,

Private Albert John Gourlay was admitted to 2nd New Zealand General Hospital at Walton-on-Thames on 5th October, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head, both shoulders, left thigh & right ankle.

Private Albert John Gourlay was placed on the Seriously Ill List on 7th October, 1918 at Walton-on-Thames Hospital with multiple wounds. He was still seriously ill on 12th October, 1918 but slightly improved.

Private Albert John Gourlay was still reported to be on Seriously Ill List & was reported to be dangerously ill on 23rd October, 1918. The Walton-on-Thames Hospital reported Private Gourlay had been amputated at left thigh on 22nd October, 1918 owing to gangrene.

Private Albert John Gourlay was still dangerously ill on 26th October, 1918 but was progressing fairly.

Private Albert John Gourlay died on 1st November, 1918 at Walton-on-Thames Hospital, Surrey, England from wounds received in action – multiple wounds & amputation of left thigh.

A death for Albert J. Gourley, aged 44, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Chertsey, Surrey, England.

Private Albert John Gourlay was buried on 5th November, 1918 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Plot number II.C.3 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Albert John Gourlay was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Gourlay's widow - Mrs E. R. Gourlay, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert John Gourlay – service number 59358, aged 44, of 2nd Battalion, Wellington Regiment, N.Z.E.F. He was the husband of E. R. Gourlay, of 17 Lombard ST., Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Albert John Gourlay is listed in the New Zealand World War 1 Army Roll of Honour 1914 – 1919.

111

Reg. No.	Rank.	Name.	Unit.	Particulars of Casualty.
48493	Pte.	Goulstone, John William	W.I.R.	Killed in action, France, 30/3/18.
73863	Rfm.	Goulter, Roy Everard ..	N.Z.R.B.	Killed in action, France, 8/10/18.
23371	Rfm.	Goulton, Charles ..	N.Z.R.B.	Killed in action, France, 26/8/18.
59358	Pte.	Gourlay, Albert John ..	W.I.R.	Died of wounds, U.K. x France, 1/11/18.

Albert John Gourlay is remembered on the Auckland Museum's Online Cenotaph.



Albert John Gourlay is remembered as part of "The Great Fallen – Lest We Forget" by Carlton Football Club, Victoria.



Albert Gourlay is remembered by the Australian Football website.



[HOME](#) | [LEAGUES](#) | [CLUBS](#) | **[PLAYERS](#)** | [COACHES](#) | [GROUNDS](#) | [ARTICLES](#) | [COMMUNITY](#)
[AFL](#) | [SANFL](#) | [WAFL](#) | [VFL](#) | [NEAFL](#) | [TSL](#) | [YFA](#) | [U19 \(NAB\)](#) | [NTFL](#) | [SAAFL](#) | [VAFA](#) | [IR](#) | [AFLW](#)

Home / Players / G / Albert Gourlay

KEY FACTS

Full name
Albert John Gourlay

Known as
Albert Gourlay

Nickname
Bert

Born
31 July 1881

Place of birth
South Melbourne, VIC (3205)

Died
1 November 1918 (aged 37)

ALBERT GOURLAY

Advanced stats ▾

Club	League	Career span	Games	Goals	Avg	Win %	AKI	AHB	AMK	BV
Melbourne	V/AFL	1903	3	1	0.33	0%	–	–	–	0
Carlton	V/AFL	1904	3	0	0.00	33%	–	–	–	0
V/AFL		1903-1904	6	1	0.17	17%	–	–	–	0
Total		1903-1904	6	1	0.17	17%	–	–	–	0

AFL: 845th player to appear, 9,045th most games played, 8,262nd most goals kicked
Melbourne: 112th player to appear, 1,032nd most games played, 817th most goals kicked
Carlton: 172nd player to appear, 965th most games played, 952nd most goals kicked

At the time of researching (February, 2021) Private Albert John Gourlay was not listed 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.

Private Albert John Gourlay's name was submitted in February, 2021 for consideration for inclusion on the Australian War Memorial's Commemorative Roll.

UPDATE: May, 2022. The Australian War Memorial have advised that Private Albert John Gourlay has now been approved for inclusion on the Australian War Memorial – Commemorative Roll.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

(16 pages of Private Albert John Gourlay's Service records are available for On Line viewing at Archives New Zealand).

Information obtained from the CWGC & Archives New Zealand

A special Thank you to Graham Grist for bring this Soldier to my attention



Albert John Gourlay

Newspaper Notices

THE FOOTBALL JUBILEE

HOW THE GAME STARTED

.....

The evolution of Australian football as a sport has gone on slowly and steadily for 50 years. No sweeping alterations in the rules were ever made, but as defects became flagrant they were remedied. At one time the side scoring the first two goals won the match and sometimes after three hours' solid play it was necessary to continue the game on the following Saturday, so that the necessary two goals might be scored. The absurdity of this plan became apparent on one occasion, when Geelong sent up a team to play Melbourne. There was a strong wind blowing, and at that time the custom was to change ends whenever a goal was scored. The game was won in less than half an hour and a scratch match had to be arranged to fill up time. Even when football had become a popular sport in Victoria, it was noticeable that very few goals were scored. Melbourne on one occasion went through a season unbeaten, and had only one goal kicked against them. That was scored by Geelong, owing to the mistake of the Melbourne goal-keeper, Gourlay, who ran out to meet a ball which bounced over his head. In that triumphant season Melbourne scored only 17 goals—a record now frequently beaten in a single match. The low scoring in these old days was, in Mr. Harrison's opinion, wholly due to the greater liberty of action given by the rules. Pushing behind was allowed and that had more to do with spoiling the scoring chances than anything else.

It was a long time before the footballers were allowed to play upon the cricket-grounds, the popular belief being that football would ruin the turf for cricket. Melbourne played at the back of the M.C.C. grand-stand, on a rather rough tract, known as the gravel pits. They were not at first allowed to enclose a space, and the consequence was that excited crowds so encroached upon the ground that its width was reduced to not more than 25 yards. On one occasion, when Melbourne and Carlton were playing a match, some "under and over" artists and three-card manipulators set up their stands on the playing ground, and invited the populace to pick the correct card. On being asked to move off, they pointed out that the park was public property, and they had the same right to it as the footballers. The plea was legally good, so other means had to be adopted. A conference of the players was held, and, Harrison said, "They are quite right. This is a public park ; everyone can do as he pleases, so when I give the signal knock off play and follow me." A few minutes later a wild whirl of footballers burst upon the confidence men, tables were sent flying, their owners turned head over heels by a purely accidental charge, and the whole difficulty was settled in one short, strenuous act.

.....

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 1 Aug, 1908)

ROLL OF HONOUR

341 CASUALTIES

WELLINGTON DISTRICT

WOUNDED

Wellington Infantry Regiment

October 1

Gourlay, A. J. (E. R. Gourlay, Palm. N., w.).

(*Dominion*, New Zealand – 16 October, 1918)

PROGRESS REPORT

WELLINGTON DISTRICT

Still Seriously Ill – Slightly Improved

Gourlay, A. J., 59,358, Palmerston North

(*Dominion*, New Zealand – 18 October, 1918)

HOSPITAL AND PROGRESS REPORT

WELLINGTON MILITARY DISTRICT

DANGEROUSLY ILL

Gourlay, A. J., 59358, Palmerston N.

(*New Zealand Times*, New Zealand – 28 October, 1918)

PROGRESS REPORT

Still Seriously Ill – Progressing Fairly

Gourlay, A. J., 59,358, Palmerston North

(*Dominion*, New Zealand – 1 November, 1918) & (*Evening Post*, New Zealand – 1 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

NINETY-FIVE CASUALTIES

YESTERDAY'S LIST

WELLINGTON DISTRICT

DIED OF WOUNDS

Wellington Infantry Regiment

Gourlay, A. J. (E. R. Gourlay, Palm. N., w. Nov 1).

(*Dominion*, New Zealand – 6 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WELLINGTON MILITARY DISTRICT

DIED OF WOUNDS

Gourlay, Albert John, 59358, W.I.R. (Mrs E. R. Gourlay, Palmerstone North, w.); November 1st

(*Hawera & Normanby Star*, New Zealand – 7 November, 1918)

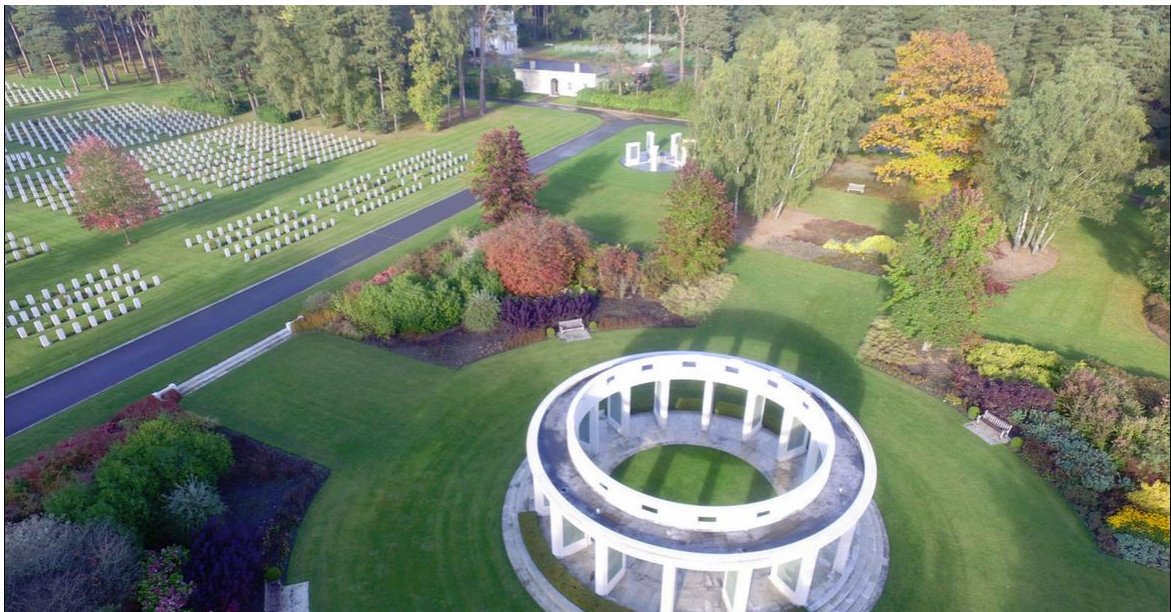
Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.

There are 230 New Zealand War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 148 from World War 1 & 82 from World War 2.



Brookwood Military Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



Brookwood Military Cemetery *(Photos by Magicfingers)*



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





New Zealand War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery *(Photos from New Zealand War Graves Project)*



Photo of Private A. J. Gourlay's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Graham Grist)

