

**Eastern Cemetery,  
Edinburgh, Scotland  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2650 CORPORAL**

**J. GRASSICK**

**SCOTS GUARDS**

**AND ROYAL ARMY VET CORPS**

**29TH NOVEMBER, 1919 Age 46**

## John GRASSICK

John Grassick was born on 9th October, 1872 in Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland to parents William & Mary Grassick (nee Ross).

The 1881 Scotland Census recorded John Grassick as an 8 year old Scholar, living with his family at 34 Albert St, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland. His parents were listed as William Grassick (Coachman, aged 48, born Cornhill, Banffsh) & Mary Grassick (aged 39, born Tain, Ross). Also listed was John's younger sister – Emily Grassick (Scholar, aged 6) & 2 Lodgers – Sarah Turner (General Domestic Servant (unemployed) aged 19) & Maggie Black (General Domestic Servant (unemployed) aged 11).

[The 1891 Scotland Census recorded Mary Grassick as a 48 year old, Cook, living at 5 Albert Street, Edinburgh, South Leith. Also listed was her daughter – Mary Grassick (Scholar, aged 9) & Robert D. Lindsay (Ware Houseman Iron, aged 36 listed as son of Mary Grassick).]

John Grassick enlisted with the Scots Guards at Glasgow on 17th February, 1899. He was aged 24 years & 4 months & was a Groom. His religion was Presbyterian. He was given a Regimental number of 2560 (The Medal Index Card for John Grassick notes his correct Regimental Number was "2648".

Private John Grassick was posted to 1st Battalion, Scots Guards. He was transferred to 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards on 21st October, 1899.

Private John Grassick was transferred to "A Reserve" on 1st November, 1902 on expiration of period of Army Service.

Private John Grassick was entitled to King's South Africa Medal & Clasp for 1901 & 1902 & Clasps for Wittenbergen, Cape Colony & Transvaal.

John Grassick married Alison Poustie Kinnear at Leith, Scotland on 29th January, 1906.

Archibald Grassick, son of John & Alison Grassick, was born at Edinburgh on 15th April, 1906.

Private John Grassick was discharged from Scots Guards on 16th February, 1911 due to the termination of his 1st period of engagement.

John Grassick re-enlisted with the Army Reserve at Edinburgh on 12th July, 1911. He was aged 37 years, married and a Cable Car Driver, living at 11 Fay Street, Edinburgh. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Allison Grassick, 11 Fay Street, Edinburgh & they had one child – Archibald. His new regimental number was 1069.

Private John Grassick joined the Army Reserve – Scots Guards (Section D) on 12th July, 1911 to complete 4 years.

Mary Grassick, daughter of John & Alison Grassick, was born at Edinburgh on 23rd January, 1914.

Private John Grassick was mobilised at London on 7th August, 1914 & was posted to 2nd Scots Guards on the same day.

Private John Grassick disembarked on 7th October, 1914 to join the British Expeditionary Force.

The 1914 – 15 Register of Voters for the City of Edinburgh and the Burgh of Leith recorded John Grassick, Tramway Servant, of 8 Viewforth Square.

Private John Grassick transferred to Army Veterinary Corps on 28th May, 1916 with a Regimental Number of 1069.

### **Army Veterinary Corps**

The Army Veterinary Corps was responsible for the medical care of animals used by the army – horses, mules & pigeons.

On 10th June, 1916, Lance Corporal John Grassick "*having fulfilled the requirements of the proviso to Section 2 of the Military Service Act, 1916 (Session 2), agreed to continue serving under the conditions of Army Order 252 of 1915.*"

Private John Grassick was on Home Service from 6th December, 1916 to 21st December, 1916. He joined Expeditionary Force in France on 22nd December, 1916.

Private John Grassick was appointed Lance Corporal on 24th March, 1917 while serving with Army Veterinary Corp with the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force).

Lance Corporal John Grassick was appointed Acting Corporal on 26th September, 1917 while posted at No. 2 Veterinary Hospital.

Lance Corporal John Grassick returned to Home Service on 27th November, 1917 until 4th January, 1918.

Corporal John Grassick was discharged on 3rd January, 1918 due to Para 392 (xvi) K.R. – "*no longer physically fit for war service.*" He was entitled to the Silver War Badge.

Corporal John Grassick died on 29th November, 1919 at City Hospital.

Death Notice – *The Scotsman*, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland - 1 December, 1919:

#### **Deaths**

*GRASSICK – At City Hospital, 29th ult., JOHN GRASSICK, late 2nd Scots Guards, only son of the late Wm. Grassick and Mrs Grassick, 111 Brunswick Street, and husband of Alice Poustie. Military funeral from 8 Viewforth Square, Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. to Easter Road Cemetery.*

John Grassick was buried on 2nd December, 1919 in Eastern Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number A. 606 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Medal Index Card for Corporal John Grassick shows he was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. The UK WW1 Service Medal and Award Rolls for the Scots Guards show that he was entitled to 1914/15 Star.

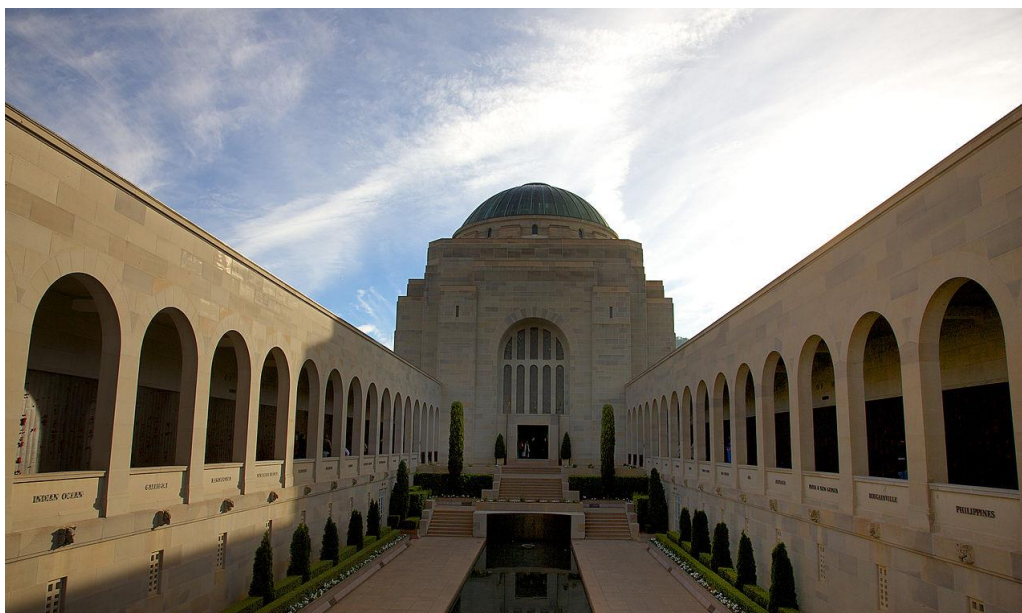
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal John Grassick, 2650, Scots Guards and Royal Army Veterinary Corps. He was the husband of Alice Poustie Grassick, of 27 Station St., Camberwell, Victoria, Australia. Served in the South African Campaign.

Corporal John Grassick 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. (*Note: It appears that Corporal Grassick's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned it was assumed would be Australian.*)

Mr A. Grassick, (son of the late John Grassick), Plumber, aged 19, of 8 Viewforth Sq., Edinburgh was a passenger on the *Osterley* which departed from the port of London, England on 3rd October, 1925 bound for Australia. He listed the country of intended future permanent residence as Australia.

Mrs M. Grassick (Widow of the late John Grassick), aged 40, Housewife, of 8 Viewforth Sq., Edinburgh was a passenger on the *Orvieto* which departed from the port of London, England on 4th September, 1926 bound for Australia. Her daughter – Miss M. Grassick, aged 12 was also listed as a passenger as well as Miss M. Grassick,

Restaurant Manageress, aged 39, of 111 Brunswick Square, Edinburgh (sister of the late John Grassick ?). The three listed their country of intended future permanent residence as Australia.



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

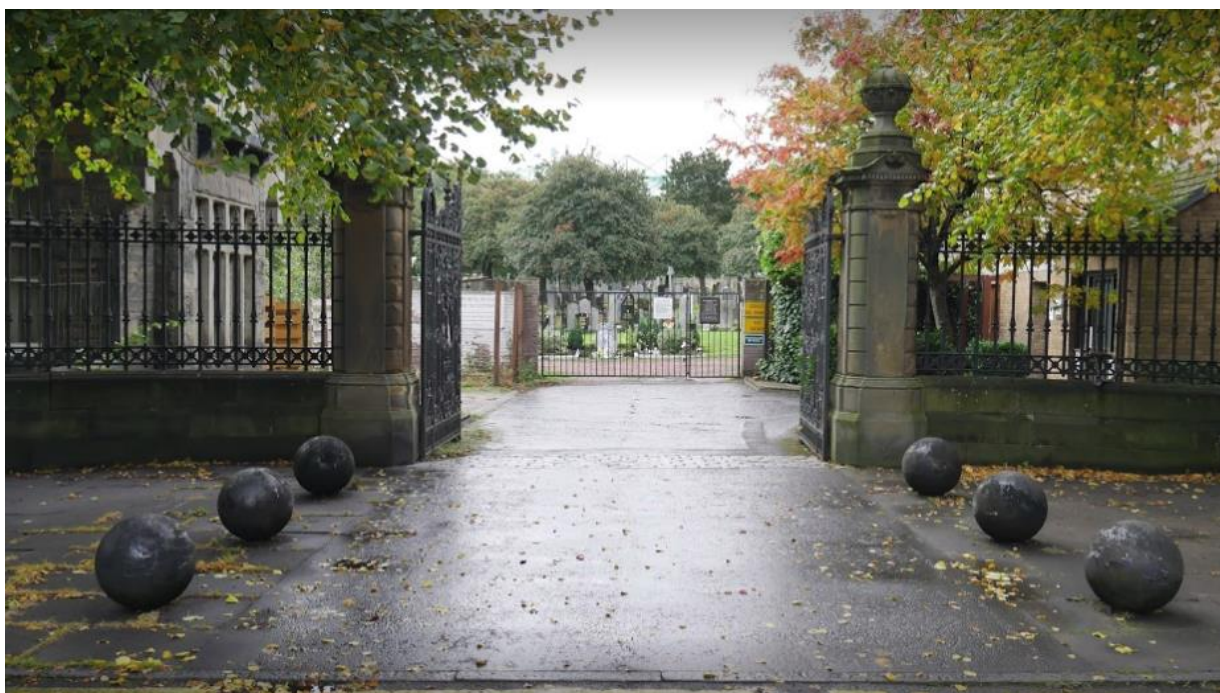
(John Grassick's Army Service records are available for On Line viewing at Find My Past website).



### **Eastern Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland**

Eastern Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains graves of both wars, including some non-war service graves in Section B. A Cross of Sacrifice is erected near the entrance, with a screen wall bearing the names of those whose 1914-1918 graves are not marked by headstones.

There are now nearly 90 World War 1 and over 60 World War 2 War casualties commemorated in this cemetery.







**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo by Adam Brown – Scottish War Graves Project)



Photo of Corporal J. Grassick's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Eastern Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.



*(Photo by Glenlivet – Find a Grave)*