

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,  
Birmingham, West Midlands**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4122 PRIVATE**

**J. GREAYER**

**17TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**7TH MAY, 1917**

## Joseph GREAYER

Joe Greayer was born at Hull, Yorkshire, England on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1881 to parents Fred & Elizabeth Hanson Greayer (nee Bower). His birth was registered in December quarter, 1881 in the district of Hull, Yorkshire, England.

Elizabeth Hanson Greayer, mother of Joe Greayer, died in 1885 at Skirlaugh, Yorkshire, England.

[Tom Greayer was born 1875; Ernest Greayer was born 1877; Florence Greayer was born 1879; died 1883; Joe Greayer was born 1881 & Ethel Greayer was born 1883.]

The 1891 England Census recorded Joe Greayer as an 8 year old, living with his family at Ganstead, Yorkshire, England (no street names recorded). His father was listed as Fred Greayer (Widower, Horse & Cattle Dealer, aged 46, born Hull, Yorkshire). Also listed was Joe's younger sister – Ethel Greayer (aged 7, born Hull, Yorkshire). Two servants were also listed – Martha Gray (Housekeeper, aged 25) & Helen Peck (aged 18).

Joseph Greayer attended school at East Hardwick, Pontefract.

The 1901 England Census recorded Joe Greayer as a 20 year old, living with his family at Field House, Anlaby, Yorkshire, England. His father was listed as Fred Greayer (Farmer, aged 54) & Fred's wife – Matha Greayer (aged 46, born Walkington, Yorkshire). Joe was one of three children listed on this Census – Ernest Greayer (Nag's man (agricultural), aged 23, born Hull, Yorkshire) then Joe & Ethel Greayer (aged 18). Two servants were also listed – Isabella Goforth (general Servant, aged 15) & William Cox - widower (Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, aged 43).

Joe Greayer, Labourer, was listed as a passenger on *Otranto* which departed from the port of London, England on 10th June, 1910 bound for Sydney, Australia.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1911 Joe Greayer joined the NSW Government Railways & Tramways as a lifter & Packer. He resigned on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1912 & rejoined as a temporary Labourer in the Tramways Electrical Branch at Randwick, Sydney, NSW on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1912. Joe Greayer was made a permanent employee on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1913 as a Lifter's Assistant. He was released on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 to join Expeditionary Forces.

Joseph Greayer was a 33 year old, single, Labourer from 51 High Holborn Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Royal Agricultural Showgrounds, Sydney, NSW on 20th October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4122 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Fred Greayer, Poplars, Gilberdyke, Yorkshire, England.

Private Joseph Greayer was posted to 10th Reinforcements of 17th Battalion on 8th November, 1915.

Private Joseph Greayer embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on H.M.A.T. *Star of England (A15)* on 8th March, 1916 with the 17th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements.

Private Joseph Greayer embarked from Alexandria on 28th May, 1916 on H.M.T. *Megantic* & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 7th June, 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 Joseph Greayer proceeded overseas to France on 10th September, 1916 from 5th Training Battalion in England.

Private Joseph Greayer was taken on strength of 17th Battalion in Belgium on 24th September, 1916.

Private Joseph Greayer reported sick on 29th October, 1916 while in France. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance Station on 29th October, 1916 with Scabies. Private Greayer rejoined his Battalion on 22nd November, 1916.

Private Joseph Greayer reported sick on 21st December, 1916. He was admitted to 1st D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) with Debility then transferred & admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen on 22nd December, 1916. Private Greayer embarked for England from Havre, France on 3rd January, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick*.

Private Joseph Greayer was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England on 4th January, 1917 with "Debility etc – severe."

### 17th Battalion

The 17th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.....

The Battalion returned to the Pozieres trenches for a second time, although in a reserve role, between 18 and 28 August. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 17th Battalion was spared from having to mount an attack across the quagmire the Somme battlefield had become, but did have to continue manning the front through a very bleak winter.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Joseph Greayer died on 7th May, 1917 at Civil General Hospital, attached to 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Joe Greayer, aged 35, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Birmingham, Warwickshire, England.

Private Joseph Greayer was buried at 3 pm on 10th May, 1917 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Sellyoak, Birmingham, England – Grave No. 470 Section "B" 10 Soldiers Plot.

This is now recorded as in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England & his name is now remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 470 as he does not have a headstone.

*From the burial report of Private Joseph Greayer - Coffin was good, Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Gun Carriage drawn by a party of R.A.M.C., attached to the 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, conveyed the body to the cemetery. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack". Prior to the interment a service was held in the chapel at the Cemetery. Mr Fred Greayer (Father) of Scalby, Gilberdyke, East York and Mr Tom Greayer (brother) of 67, Southcoates Avenue, Hull, were present at the funeral. Temporary Oak Memorial is to be erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

Private Joseph Greayer was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Greayer's father - Mr F. Greayer, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in August, 1922).

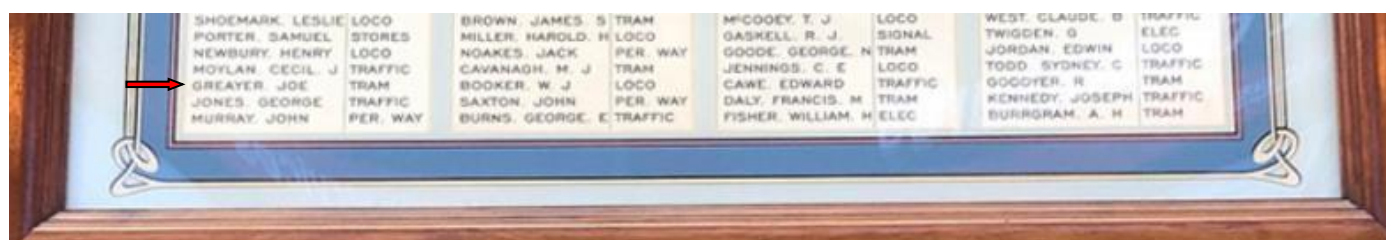
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. Greayer – service number 4122, of 17th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. Greayer is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 82.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Joe Greayer is remembered on the NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour, located at Country Trains Concourse, Eddy Avenue, Haymarket, Sydney, NSW.





NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)

J. Greayer is remembered on the Gilberdyke WW1 & WW2 Roll of Honour, located inside Gilberdyke Memorial Hall, Clementhorpe Road, Gilberdyke, Boothferry, Humberside, England.



Gilberdyke WW1 & WW2 Roll of Honour (Photo from IWM)

(31 pages of Private Joseph Greayer's 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**

### **Patriotic Tram Men**

There was a large gathering at the Tramway Workshops, Randwick, when Mr. O. C. Brain, chief electrical engineer, unveiled a Roll of Honor, which had been erected by the employees. Among those present were:— Lieutenant-Colonel G. Lane Muffins (Officer-Commanding No. 4 General Hospital, Randwick), Major Frank E. Wall (Registrar), Rev. Mr. Cakebread, Rev. Mr. Talbot, Father Triond, Rev. Mr. Stephen, Rev. Mr. Graham, and Lieutenant Ward, and a party of invalids from No. 4 General Hospital.

Mr. Brain congratulated the tramway men on the number they had sent to the front.

Mr. Pointret, the president of the workshop, pointed out that the employers were doing everything they could to assist the dependents of the men who were fighting in the cause of liberty. A collection was made each pay day, and from that fund thirteen widows were receiving one pound to thirty shillings per week.

The names on the roll are as follow:— , Stanley M. Anderson, Robert F. Armstrong.....Joe Greayer.....

*(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 17 January, 1917)*

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### **FOR AUSTRALIA**

The 301st list of Australian casualties was issued this morning.....

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **DIE OF ILLNESS**

Pte J. GREAYER, England (previously reported dangerously ill)

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 21 May, 1917)*

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### **Superannuation Board Monthly Meeting**

#### **Died on Active Service**

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Joe Greayer, lifter's assistant, Tramways; 9/9 per day; deceased, 6/5/17; amount, £3/16/7

*(All Grades Advocate, Sydney, NSW – 12 July, 1917)*

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## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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 J. Greayer does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

## **Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England**

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

*(Information from CWGC)*



*(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)*

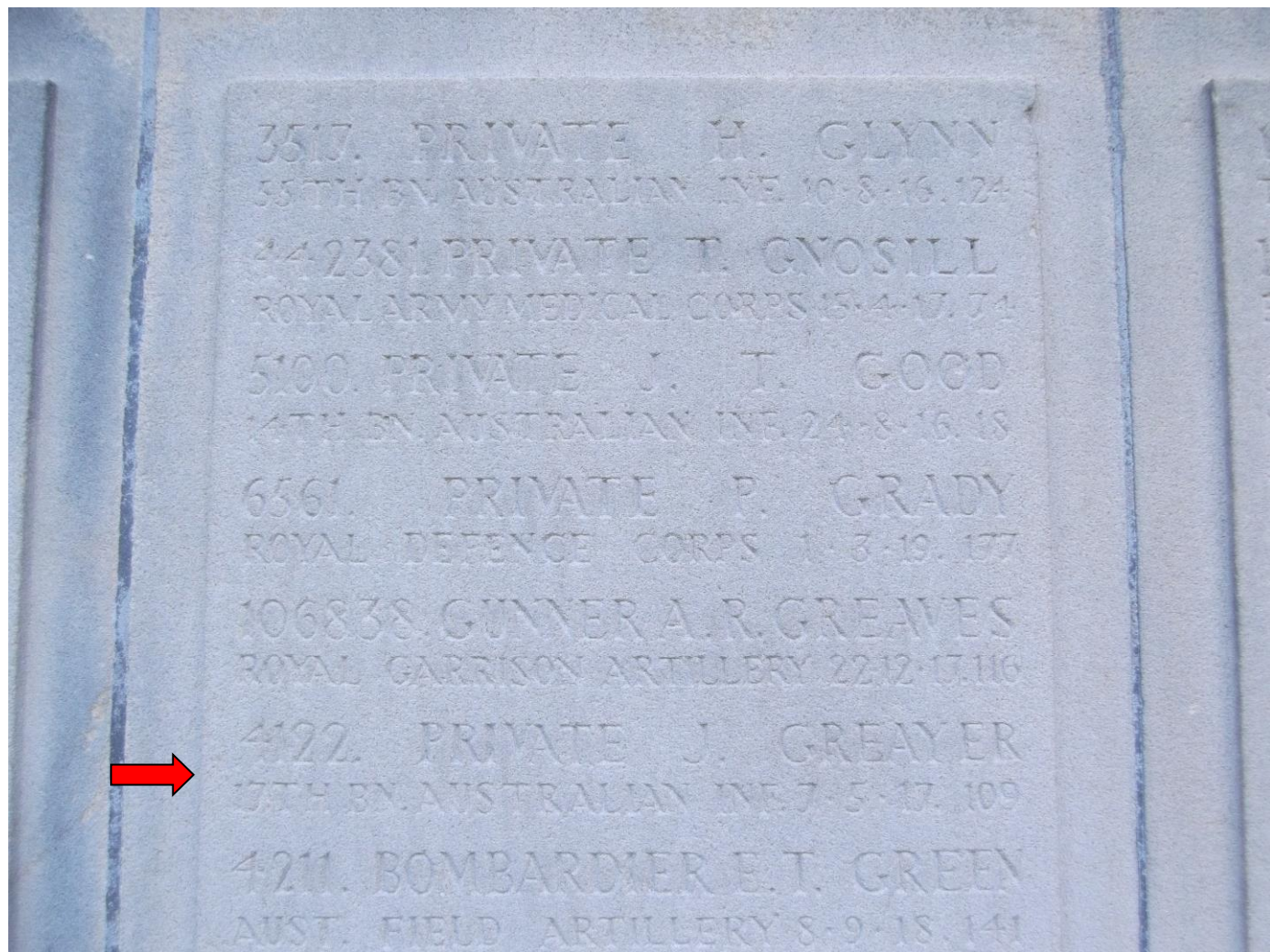


**Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham** *(Photos from CWGC)*





Photo of Private J. Greayer's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



**WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance** (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

# Lodge Hill Cemetery

