

**Carmarthen Cemetery,
Carmarthen, Wales
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



36 LANCE CORPORAL

A. J. GUTHRIE

2ND FIELD COMPANY, AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

9TH NOVEMBER, 1915

Thy Will Be Done

Albert John (Bert) GUTHRIE

Albert John Guthrie was born in Perth, Western Australia on 23rd April, 1890 to parents David & Eliza Ann Guthrie (nee Harvey).

Albert John Guthrie attended Perth Boys School, Western Australia.

The 1912 & 1913 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, subdivision of West Perth, Western Australia listed Albert John Guthrie, Warehouseman, of 471 Newcastle St. His parents David Guthrie, Merchant, and Eliza Anna Guthrie & Grace Elizabeth Guthrie were also listed at 471 Newcastle St. Albert Guthrie stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Light Horse in Western Australia for 3 years.

Albert John Guthrie was a 24 year old, single, Carpenter from 54 Powlett Street, East Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 26th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 36 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – David Guthrie, of 722 Hay Street, Perth, Western Australia. (According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour Albert Guthrie was a Commercial Traveller & had also trained as a Clerk).

Sapper Albert John Guthrie was posted to 2nd Field Company, Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force on 26th August, 1914 for recruit training.

Sapper - also called pioneer or combat engineer, is a combatant or soldier who performs a variety of military engineering duties such as bridge-building, laying or clearing minefields, demolitions, field defences and general construction, as well as road and airfield construction and repair. They are also trained to serve as infantry personnel in defensive and offensive operations. A sapper's duties are devoted to tasks involving facilitating movement, defence and survival of allied forces and impeding those of enemies.

Sapper Albert John Guthrie embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orvieto* (A3) on 21st October, 1914 with 2nd Field Company, Australian Engineers.

Sapper Albert John Guthrie proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 5th April, 1915.

Sapper Albert John Guthrie was reported to have a sprained ankle on 1st May, 1915 while posted at Gallipoli.

Sapper Albert John Guthrie was taken to 2nd Field Ambulance at Gallipoli on 7th May, 1915 with Influenza. He was discharged to lines the same day.

Sapper Albert John Guthrie was appointed to Lance Corporal on 25th May, 1915.

Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie was to be H. Q. Sergeant from 14th August, 1915 then 2nd Corporal from 30th August, 1915.

** (Note: there is a discrepancy with the rank of Albert John Guthrie – the change in ranks was only recorded on the Statement of Service form – not the Casualty Form - Active Service nor the War Gratuity Schedule.)

From the Gallipoli Diary of Sergeant Lawrence:

- Diary entry 16 September, page 85 - "*On 9 September my Headquarters sergeant went away with gastritis. I did not know him before I was placed on Headquarters but since then we have become great friends. His name is Guthrie. Before he joined, he was a commercial traveller, but he is a really decent fellow, one of those fair, good-looking individuals who always look clean. We have been in the habit every morning at 5.45 of going down for a bathe. It is just glorious but more often than not we are chased off the beach wet, and with our clothes under our arms, by our old pal Beachy Bill - still he has not got us yet. We had planned what a good time we were going to have together when we got spelled and now he has gone off sick. This throws all the Headquarters work on to me alone. It means long hours...."*
- Editors note, Postscript, page 135 - "*Lawrence had been acting as the Company's Headquarters Sergeant since the middle of July, when Headquarters Sergeant Guthrie had been evacuated wounded."*

Lance Corporal (**2nd Corporal) Albert John Guthrie was sent to Hospital sick with Gastritis on 10th September, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship from 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac on 8th September, 1915 (date as recorded) with Gastritis. Lance Corporal was transferred from Hospital Ship *Gascon* to Hospital at Malta on 16th September, 1915 & admitted to St. David's Hospital at Malta with Gastritis. Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie was transferred to Hospital Ship *Karoola* from Malta on 27th September, 1915 & embarked for England.

Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie was admitted sick to 3rd Western General Hospital at Cardiff, Wales on 5th October, 1915.

Base Records advised Mr David Guthrie, 722 Hay Street, Perth, Western Australia on 6th October, 1915 that Sergeant A. J. Guthrie had disembarked at Malta from Hospital Ship *Gascon* on 16th September sick (slightly) & would advise if anything further was received. Mr Guthrie was advised on 19th October, 1915 that Sergeant A. J. Guthrie was in Hospital at Cardiff, Wales.

Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie died on 9th November, 1915 at Red Cross Hospital, Carmarthen, Wales from Internal Haemorrhage.

(Note: some forms in the Service Record file of Lance Corporal A. J. Guthrie have the date of death as 8th November, 1915 – namely Army Form 2090 "Report of a Death of a Soldier" & a Memorandum to The Secretary, Department of Defence, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne from Australian Military Office, Westminster, London, England – both forms were signed by H. C. Smart. All other forms in the file have the date of death as 9th November, 1915 – Statement of Service, Field Service – Report of a Death of a Soldier, War Gratuity Schedule, Casualty Form – Active Service)

A death for Albert J. Guthrie, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, Wales.

Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie was buried on 11th November, 1915 in Carmarthen Cemetery, Carmarthen, Wales, – Plot number B. 239.

Newspaper item – *The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 30 December, 1915:

MISCELLANEOUS

A Welsh paper writing of the funeral of Sergeant A. J. Guthrie, of Perth, says: - "The funeral of Sergeant A. J. Guthrie, Australian R. E., who passed away at the Red Cross Hospital, Carmarthen, took place on November 11, the interment being at the cemetery. The Rev. B. Parry Griffiths, vicar of St. Peter's, assisted by the Rev. Ilar Edwards, curate, officiated. Despite the rain, large crowds of townspeople watched the mournful cortege on the way to the burial ground, and there were manifestations of genuine sympathy in all quarters. Preceding the hearse was the Boy Scouts Band, under the scout master, Mr. B. G. Humphreys, and a large number of wounded soldiers. The coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, was covered with a very large number of beautiful wreaths. The chief mourners were Private H. D. Guthrie, of the A.I.F. (brother of deceased), who has also been wounded; and an uncle of the deceased. Amongst those present were Lieutenant-General Sir James Hills-Johnes, V.C., G.C.B., Dolancothy; Mr. Pryse-Rice, Llwynybrain; Revs. A. Fuller Mills, W. D. Rowlands, and E. Ungoad Thomas; Drs. Parry, Williams, and Harris; Nurse Ditcham, and a number of other nurses. The Last Post was sounded at the graveside."

A letter was sent to Mr D. Guthrie, father of the late Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie, in August, 1919 stating the body of the late Lance Corporal A. J. Guthrie had been exhumed from common grave No. B 239 & re-interred in Grave No. 238 Section B in Carmarthen Cemetery, Carmarthen, South Wales.

Mr David Guthrie, father of the late Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie, wrote to Base Records in June, 1920 in reply to communications sent to him regarding the Headstone to be placed on his son's grave. The letter continues on "I am enclosing a communication that I received shortly after my son's decease ____ that he was a Sergt at his Death – will kindly return & answer at you convenience." Base Records replied after internal checks were made

regarding the rank & pay of the late Lance Corporal A. J. Guthrie. "With reference to your enquiry relative to the rank of the above-named soldier, I have to advise you that according to the records at this branch you son held the rank of Lance Corporal at the time of his regrettable loss. The reference to rank in the attached communication is evidently erroneous."

Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Guthrie's father – Mr D. Guthrie, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

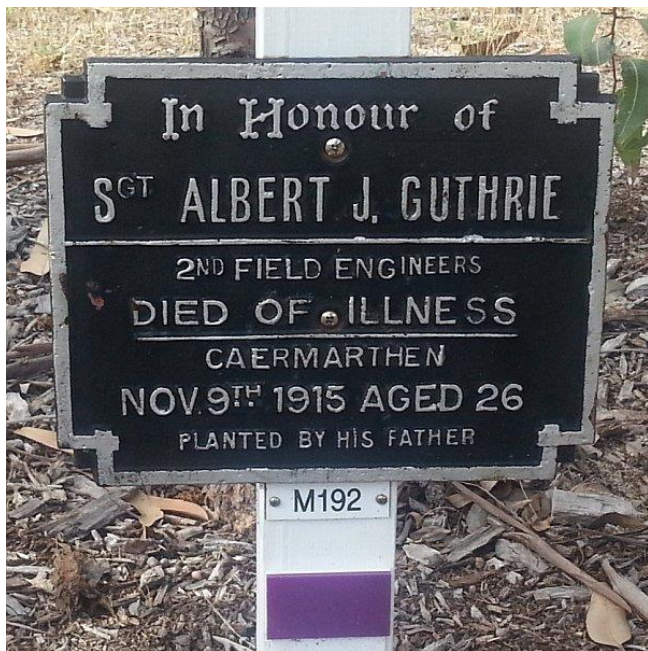
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie – service number 36, aged 25, of 2nd Field Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of David and Eliza Ann Guthrie, of 471 Newcastle St., Perth, Western Australia.

A. J. Guthrie & his brothers are remembered on the Trinity Church Roll of Honour, located at 72 St. Georges Terrace, Perth, Westren Australia.



Trinity Church Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Bryan Hardy)

Sgt. Albert J. Guthrie is remembered with a Memorial Plaque (M192) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.



(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)

Lance Corporal A. J. Guthrie is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 23.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(55 pages of Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie'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) & National Archives



Connected to Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie:

Older brother – Henry David Guthrie, 44, 11th Battalion - Enlisted 26th August, 1914, aged 28. Embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on 31st October, 1914 on HMAT *Medic*. Transferred to 48th Battalion. Returned to Australia 8th April, 1917 – shell concussion. Medcialy discharged 14th September, 1917. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Younger brother – Private Frank Guthrie, 4277, 16th Battalion – Enlisted 27th September, 1915, aged 22. Embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on 29th January, 1916 on HMAT *Runic*. Transferred to 48th Battalion. Wounded in action 13th January, 1917 – gunshot wound to leg – amputated at right thigh. Returned to Australia 25th November, 1917. Medcialy discharged 29th January, 1918. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

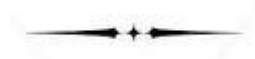
Younger brother – Private Wilfred George Guthrie, 1656, 51st Battalion – Enlisted 28th February, 1916, aged 19. Embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on 17th April, 1916 on HMAT *Aeneas*. Promoted to Lance Corporal 28th June, 1917. Wounded in action – 25th April, 1918 Gassed Awarded Military Medal. Returned to Australia 4 June, 1919. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Albert John (Bert) Guthrie



Albert John (Bert) Guthrie



Newspaper Notices

NINETY-FIFTH AND NINETY-SIXTH CASUALTY LISTS

ILL

2nd Field Company Engineers (Vic)- Sergeant A. J. Guthrie (Perth), disembarked at Malta.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 22 October, 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ROLL OF HONOUR

102nd and 103rd CASUALTY LIST

ILL OR WOUNDED

Victoria- Sergeant A. J. Guthrie, 2nd Field Co, Engineers, of Perth, in hospital, Cardiff (previously reported ill)

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 2 November, 1915)

W.A. CASUALTIES

Information has been received in Perth to the effect that Sergeant A. J. Guthrie, of the 2nd Australian Field Coy, Engineers, who was previously reported wounded, is now in hospital at Cardiff.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 3 November, 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN

CASUALTIES

Mr. D. Guthrie, Hay-street, was informed by the military authorities yesterday of the death of his son, Sergeant A. J. Guthrie, 2nd Field Company Engineers. Sergeant Guthrie was reported ill some little time ago, and was ordered from the Dardanelles to Malta, and subsequently conveyed with other sick and wounded soldiers to Carmarthen, Wales, where he was placed in the Red Cross Society's hospital. There he remained till the 9th inst., on which day he died from internal hemorrhage. It is worthy of note that the death of this young soldier - he was only 25 years of age - occurred on the same date as that on which, twelve months previously, H.M.A.S. Sydney, in response to the wireless call, left her sister vessels, including the flag- ship Orvieta, on board of which was Sergeant Guthrie, and steamed away to the destruction of the notorious German cruiser Emden the same day.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 19 November, 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ROLL OF HONOUR

116th CASUALTY LIST

DEATH

Sergeant A. J. Guthrie, 2nd Field Company Engineers, Victoria (Perth), died of illness, previously reported ill.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 27 November, 1915)



SERGT. A. J. GUTHRIE

2nd Field Engineers, died at Carmarthen, Wales as a result of wounds.

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 19 December, 1915)

ILLUSTRATED SECTION



SERGEANT A. J. GUTHRIE

2nd Field Company Engineers

(Succumbed to illness)

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 24 December, 1915)

KILLED IN ACTION

GUTHRIE – On Tuesday, November 9, at the Red Cross Hospital, Carmarthen, Wales, died of internal Hemorrhage, after serving five months in Gallipoli, Sergeant A. J. (Bert) Guthrie, No. 2 Company Field Engineers, dearly beloved son of Mr and Mrs D. Guthrie.

Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 30 December, 1915) & (*Western Mail*, Perth, W. Australia – 31 December, 1915)

£.S.D.

OTHER PEOPLE'S

PROBATES AND ADMINISTRATIONS

The following probates and letters of Administration have been issued by the Supreme Court:

Probates

Albert John Guthrie, formerly of Sydney, New South Wales, to David Guthrie, £449 9s. 7d.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia – 19 April, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Hero

GUTHRIE – A tribute of love to the memory of Sergeant Albert J. Guthrie, dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs D. Guthrie, who passed peacefully away at the Red Cross Hospital, Carmarthen, Wales, November 9 1915, after serving five months in Gallipoli.

Greater love hath no man than this, that
a man lay down his life for his friends.

GUTHRIE – In loving memory of our dear nephew, Sergeant Albert J. Guthrie, who passed peacefully away November 9, 1915, at the Red Cross Hospital, Carmarthen, Wales

GUTHRIE – A tribute to the memory of Sergeant A. J. (Bert) Guthrie, who passed away November 9 1915.

-Inserted by his sincere friends, M. and J. Manning, Clive-road, Mt. Lawley.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 9 November, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

GUTHRIE – A loving tribute to the memory of Sergeant Albert J. Guthrie, No. 2 Company, Field Engineers, who passed away at the Red Cross Hospital, Carmarthen, Wales, on November 9, 1915. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

GUTHRIE – A tribute to the memory of Sergeant A. J. (Bert) Guthrie, who passed peacefully away November 9 1915.

-Inserted by his sincere friends, M. and J. Manning, Clive-road, Mt. Lawley.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 9 November, 1917)

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Greater love hath no man than this,
That a man lay down his life for his friends.

GUTHRIE – A loving tribute to the memory of our dear nephew, Sergeant A. J. Guthrie, who passed peacefully away November 9, 1915.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs Mace, Golding-street.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 9 November, 1918)

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)

Mr David Guthrie, father of the late Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie, wrote to Base Records in June, 1920 in reply to communications sent to him regarding the Headstone to be placed on his son's grave. He stated "*I think it would be better to have the plain in lieu of the Cross of David which I asked to have placed on the Grave but after ___ communications I have altered my mind....*" Base Records replied stating "... *whereas the Star of David*" is emblematical of the Jewish faith, the Cross is universally recognised as the emblem of Christianity, irrespective of any particular denomination. In view of this please state if you desire the Cross engraved on the headstone."

Lance Corporal Albert John Guthrie has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Carmarthen Cemetery, Carmarthen, Wales

Carmarthen Cemetery contains 18 Commonwealth War Graves – 9 from World War 1 & 9 from World War 2.



Carmarthen Cemetery, Wales (Photo by Julian Tansell – Find a Grave)

Photo of Lance Corporal A. J. Guthrie's Private Headstone in Carmarthen Cemetery, Carmarthen, Wales.



(Photo by Julian Tansell – Find a Grave)