

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,  
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4981 CORPORAL**

**THOMAS GWILYM JACOB**

**31ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**21ST NOVEMBER, 1917**

*In Memory Of  
The Beloved Son Of  
Mr & Mrs J. Jacobs  
Of Charters Towers*

## Thomas Gwilym JACOB

Thomas Gwilym Jacob was born at Charters Towers, Queensland on 21st September, 1891 to parents Jacob & Mary Jacob (nee Evans).

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kennedy, subdivision of Charters Towers, Queensland listed Thomas Gwilym Jacob, Ironmonger, from Mexican Street.

Thomas Gwilym Jacob was a 25 year old, single, Soldier – Drill Instructor when he enlisted at Charters Towers, Queensland on 28th February, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4981 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Jacob, Mexican Street, Charters Towers, Queensland. Thomas Jacob stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 5 ½ years with Kennedy Regiment & Instructional Staff for 1 year & 5 months.

*[Note: Thomas Jacob's middle name has been recorded as "Gurlym" on some forms in his Service Record file. ]*

Thomas Gwilym Jacob enlisted with substantive rank of Sergeant on 14th March, 1917 with 10th Reinforcements of 47th Battalion at Enoggera Camp, having previously been Acting S/Sgt Major, Instructional Staff, Australia. He was transferred to No. 1 Depot Company on 1st May, 1917. Sergeant Jacob was then transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 31st Battalion on 11th June, 1917 & reverted to the rank of Corporal at his own request.

Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Hororata (A20)* on 14th June, 1917 with the 31st Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 26th August, 1917.

### 31st Battalion

The 31st Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane, in August 1915. Some of the battalion's companies, however, were also raised at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria. In early October, these two elements were united at Broadmeadows, and the battalion sailed from Melbourne the following month.

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

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.

Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob was posted to 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from 26th August, 1917. (The War Gratuity Schedule recorded "*marched into 8th Tng Bn C'ford from Aust*". "*C'ford*" referring to Codford, Wiltshire)

Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob was sent sick to Hospital then admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 3rd October, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form recorded he was "*very ill on admission.*"

Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob died at 10.30 am on 21st November, 1917 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Thomas G. Jacobs, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob was buried on 26th November, 1917 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 128 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob - *Coffin "1st Class"*. Local Vicar of Parish in which Hospital is situated visited deceased soldier regularly with spiritual ministrations. Graveyard and graves kept in order by local residents. Matron and Nurses spoke in highest praise of the deceased soldier's pluck and fine character.

Information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour stated that Thomas Gwilym Jacob “*took great interest in Military life & his one aim in life to get to firing line.*”

Thomas Gwilym Jacob requested in his Will, dated 12th June, 1917 at Enoggera, that all his real and personal property be bequeathed to his mother – Mary Jacob, of Charters Towers. He appointed his mother to be the sole Executrix.

A War Pension was granted to Mary Jacob, mother of the late Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob, in the sum of £1/10/ per fortnight from 27th January, 1918.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Jacob, on 3rd June, 1921, stating it was noted on the records that she was registered as the next-of-kin of the late Corporal T. G. Jacob but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mary Jacob, of Mexican Street, Charters Towers, replied to Base Records on 20th June stating the next of kin of the late Corporal T. G. Jacob was his father – Mr J. Jacob, of Mexican Street, Charters Towers.

Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Jacob’s father – Mr J. Jacob, as the closest next-of-kin.

Base Records contacted Mr J. Jacob on 21st October, 1922 with the following letter: “*With reference to the issue of the Memorial Plaque and Scroll in respect of the services of your son, the late No. 4981 Corporal T. G. Jacob, 31st Battalion, the former memento has now been received at this office inscribed in the name of – “Thomas GURLYM Jacob” but as some doubt exists regarding the correct spelling of the second Christian name, I should be glad of your definite advice in the matter. I should also be glad to learn in the event of the Plaque being incorrectly embossed if you are prepared to accept same in its present form. Otherwise it will be necessary to arrange for the provision of a fresh Plaque, and I am afraid some considerable time must elapse before this can be obtained.*”

Mrs M. Jacob replied to Base Records on 6th November, 1922 stating that the correct name was “*Thomas Gwilym Jacob*”.

(Memorial Scroll sent July, 1921 & Memorial Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Service Record File for the late Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob recorded that he served for more than one period of service:

Service Number 695 - Jacob, Thomas Gwilym, N & MEF

Service number 4981 - Jacob, Thomas Gwilym, 31/Bn.

*[The Service Record file for Service Number 695 was not open for free viewing at the time of researching.]*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob – service number 4981, of 31st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Jacob and Mary Jacob, of Mexican St., Charters Towers, North Queensland.

Corporal T. G. Jacob is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 118.



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

The Charters Towers War Memorial Cenotaph, located on Gill Street, Charters Towers, Queensland, does not list individual names.



**Charters Towers War Memorial Cenotaph** (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Kevin McSweeney)

T. G. Jacob is remembered on the Charters Towers WW1 Wall of Remembrance, located at Prior Street, Richmond Hill, Queensland.



**Charters Towers WW1 Wall of Remembrance**

*(Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)*



(56 pages of Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob'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*

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Messrs Edward Jones of Winton and Thomas Gwilym Jacob, of Charters Towers, volunteered and passed the medical test to-day. Mr Jones served in the South African War in the famous Scots Greys. Mr Jacob, who volunteered to-day, is well known here and is the son of Mr Jacob Jacob of Mexican-street. He is a staff-sergeant-major and has been on the instructional staff at Eoogera for about 12 months. He was also one of the lads who served at Thursday Island. He also offered his services for King and country some months back, but was detained on the instructional staff.

*(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 28 February, 1917)*

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### **FAREWELL TO VOLUNTEERS**

At the Town Hall yesterday afternoon His Worship the Mayor, Ald. D. Guthrie, farewelled the following men who left by the evening train for Townsville en route to Enoggera:- T. G. Jacob.....

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Queensland – 6 March, 1917)*

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### **FAREWELL TO VOLUNTEERS**

At the Town Hall on Mopnday evening four volunteers, Messrs. Andrea, Jarvis, Powell and Carlson, were farewelled by the Mayor and Citizens. T. G. Jacob had left by the morning train and the volunteers expected from the west did not put in an appearance, the heavy rains out that way probably being the deterrent.....

*(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 6 March, 1917)*

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### **WAR ITEMS**

In a letter received, by Mr Jacob, of Mexican Street, from his son, the late Corpl. Gwilym Jacob, the latter gives a very, interesting account of the trip to England and the sights he had seen en route. They reached England on 26th August, and then had to go into an isolation camp for three weeks owing to one of the chaps having the mumps. He mentioned having met Arthur Anderson, Bob Rollston, and Arthur Villiers. Lieut. Urquhart was only a mile away, and he intended going to see him. The food they got was fine— porridge every morning also fried steak and bacon ; for dinner roast beef, stuffing potatoes, and either cabbage or carrot, , also puddings and soup ; for tea, bread and butter, tea and plum pudding. He added that Arthur Williams also wished to be remembered to all.

*(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 1 December, 1917)*

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### **Personal**

Mr Llewellyn, M.L.C., has been advised of the death of a former shop assistant of his, Private Thomas Gwilym Jacob. His parents and sister (Mrs Gladys Ishmael, Charters Towers), have been advised this week, that he died in Sutton hospital, England, from cerebro spinal meningitis.

*(Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette, Queensland – 8 December, 1917)*

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## Personal

An error occurred in last Saturday's issue in the paragraph relating to the death of Staff Sergeant-Major Thomas Gwilym Jacobs. He was designated as Private Jacobs, and it was also stated he had been in the employ of Mr H. Llewellyn M.L.C. This latter error arose through misreading the remark in his sister's letter to Mr Llewellyn that "he spent a lot of his time" in that gentleman's shop, as implying that he had been (employed) in the shop. It appears that he was Staff Sergeant-Major to the local training area of cadets for about 15 or 18 months, and came to Gympie from Brisbane having previously been in Charters Towers. This information has been submitted by the local military.

*(Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette, Queensland – 13 December, 1917)*

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## AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

### LIST No. 476

Died of Illness

Corporal T. G. Jacob (Charters Towers)

*(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 28 December, 1917)*

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## LATE CORPORAL T. G. JACOB

### Letters Received by Parents

Mr. and Mrs. J. Jacob, Mexican Street, Charters Towers, have received the following letters conveying news of the long illness, death and funeral obsequies of their late son, Corporal T. G. (Gwilym) Jacob (brother of a Cairns resident).

Lieut H. Miller writes: "I am writing on behalf of the 14th Training Battalion, to which your son was attached, to convey to you our deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement in the death of your son, Corporal Thomas G. Jacob, on the 21st November, 1917, at the military hospital near Salisbury, Wilts, England. As an officer to whom your son came in close contact, I must say that he was a thorough gentleman, and well liked by all whom he had occasion to take charge of. The matron and nurses of the hospital in which your son was lying all spoke in glowing terms of his cheerful demeanor and courage right up to the last. I also had the honor of taking charge of the burial party on 26th November, 1917. He was laid at rest in the quiet little churchyard at Strathford — Sub-Castle, near Salisbury. He was buried with full military honors, which consisted of: Full military band, firing party, pall bearers and gun carriage. Wreaths were sent from the officers (1), sergeants (1), and the men of his company, and also from the staff at the hospital. I may also state that the graves of all Australian soldiers in this cemetery are looked after and well cared for by the local residents of the village. All personal effects of your son's will be forwarded to you from A.I.F. headquarters. In conclusion, I ask you to accept my sincerest regret and deepest sympathy, and will be glad to convey to you any further inquiries if you communicate with the address given above.

Miss Candace Alexander, matron of the Salisbury and District Joint Isolation Hospital, also writes : — No doubt by now you have heard of your son's long illness and death here. He was an extremely good patient, always anxious not to give us any unnecessary trouble, and always cheerful and polite. He was a general favorite with all who helped to nurse him. The churchyard where he is buried is a very peaceful. His battalion sent the gun-carriage, party and band. They buried him with full military honors, and his grave will be well taken care of by the villagers. If you ever come to England when this terrible war is over it will be quite easy to find it; a plan of the churchyard is kept at the vicarage, which is quite near. The officer who came to his funeral took charge of all his kit and personal belongings to return to you, but I have a few unopened letters to send to you direct. Please accept my deepest sympathy. I am very sorry indeed we could not do more to help you. If there is anything more you would like to know that I have not thought of, please write and say. I know how anxious you must be to hear everything. Will not post this till Monday, when I can get you some postcards of the church and graves. We are all longing for the dreadful war to end. With very kind regards.

Pte. A. D. Williams, writing to a member of the "Northern Miner" staff on November 24th, from England, says : — It is with deep regret that I have to notify you of the death of our comrade, Corporal Jacobs. "Jakes" (as he was called by all his mates) was a fine manly lad of cheery disposition, and always did his best for the welfare of the lads under his control. He was every inch a soldier and a man, and his loss to the battalion will be greatly felt by us all. I was a constant companion of his ever since leaving Australia, being in his platoon on the troopship and also in his platoon at the Training Battalion here in England. Whilst on parade he always insisted on the strictest discipline, and although at times on the troopship we resented this discipline, he knew it was for the betterment of the lads, because we soon found out on reaching our training battalion that discipline was strictly enforced, and had it not been for the training in this respect received from our late comrade, some of the lads would have had a bad time over here. On parade, under him, you knew you were a soldier. Always duty first with him and play afterwards. Off parade he was "one of us," and he joined in our fun. I remember on our long journey across, many a night he and I would get in a secluded spot on the deck and talk about our dear old native city. He always in these quite chats spoke most lovingly of his parents at home, to whom he was greatly attached. If he had wished he could have remained in Australia on the staff, but he heard the call of duty and reverted to the rank of corporal in order to get away with the lads. The height of his ambition was to get to the firing line, and I am sure if he had been spared to attain his wish he would have made a name for himself, as his stirring qualities and the knowledge he had of the great game of soldiering would have stuck to him in many a tight corner. I remember when we were here about a week he was warned for draft for France, and he was more than pleased that his opportunity to go to the line had come sooner than he expected, but for some reason or other he was cut off the draft at the last moment, and he was very disappointed, but he took his disappointment in a fine soldierly spirit. He died at the hospital in Salisbury, after an illness lasting about ten weeks. Australia can ill afford to lose men of his type, but there is this glorious aspect he gave his life for his country. Kindly convey to the relatives of our departed comrade our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement, and tell them that the lads of the battalion will ever keep his memory in their hearts, as we all believe in his old adage, "A true soldier never dies."

Mrs. Jacob also received a letter from Chaplain A Irvine Davidson, who conducted the funeral, and in which he says, "We gave your son a military funeral, with full military honors. We took a party of 40, with three sergeant-majors and two officers, by train from our camp to Salisbury, and then marched out to the hospital. There we had a gun carriage, with a team of four black horses, which carried the beautiful oak coffin, covered with the Union Jack. With arms reversed, we moved off towards the cemetery. Down in a very pretty village called Stratford — sub-castle, under the historic hill on which stands the fort of Old Sarum with its ancient ruins, there lies in a pretty valley this quaint old English village, with its church and graveyard. At the graveside the firing party fired their 3-volley salute, and gave the present arms salute while the bugler sounded the Last Post. And there we left his mortal remains."

(*Cairns Post*, Queensland – 18 February, 1918) & (*The Northern Herald*, Cairns, Queensland – 7 March, 1918)

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## IN MEMORIAM

JACOB – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and beloved brother, the late Corporal T. G. Jacob. who died at the Military Hospital, Salisbury Plains, November 21st, 1917.

His heart was good, his spirit brave,  
His resting place a soldier's grave.  
To have, to love, and then to part,  
Is the saddest story of a human heart.  
In our hearts your memory lingers –  
Tender, fond and true.  
There's not a day goes past, dear Will  
But what we think of you.

(Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters, Mr and Mrs Jacob, Mexican-street, Charters Towers)

(*The Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 21 November, 1918)



## ROLL OF HONOR

JACOBS – In loving memory of Corporal Thomas Gwilym, died of illness, Salisbury Hospital, England, November 21st, 1917.

The war is really over;  
For some those words sound nice.  
But, oh! the sad hearts of those  
Whose loved ones paid the price.  
You are not forgotten, dear Gwilym,  
Nor will you ever be,  
As long as life and memory lasts  
We will remember thee.

(Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters)

(*The Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 21 November, 1919)

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### 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*)

Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of The Beloved Son Of  
Mr & Mrs J. Jacob Of Charters Towers*

### **St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England**

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. (*Information from CWGC*)



**St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle**



**Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice**



*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*



*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*



*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*

Photo of Corporal Thomas Gwilym Jacob's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*



**Original Grave Markers**

## Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army			NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B		↓	Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

*(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)*