

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



2694 PRIVATE

G. A. JOHNSTON

37TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10th FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 25

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte G. A. Johnston is located in Grave Plot # 189
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

George Andrew JOHNSTON

George Andrew Johnston was born in 1892 at Robertson, NSW to parents Edward & Jane Johnston (nee McDonagh/MacDonagh).

George Andrew Johnston was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Robertson, via Moss Vale, NSW when he enlisted at Kiama on 27th October, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 37th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2694 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Edward Johnston of Robertson, via Moss Vale, NSW.

Pte George Andrew Johnston embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 9th November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9th January, 1917.

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 George Andrew Johnston was marched into 10th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire from Australia on 10th January, 1917.

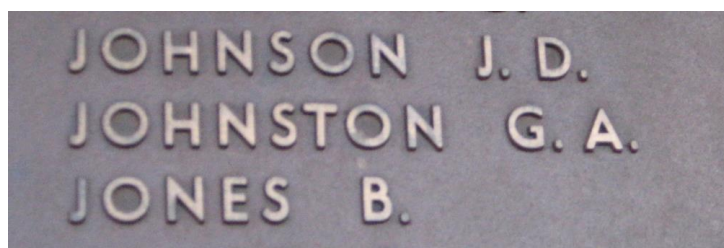
Private George Andrew Johnston was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital on 5th February, 1917. He was reported as being seriously ill with Pneumonia on 7th February, 1917.

Private George Andrew Johnston died at 3.40 p.m. on 10th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for George A. Johnston, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private George Andrew Johnston was buried on 14th February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 189 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private G. A. Johnston is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 128.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Newspaper Reports

OUR FRONT HEROES

...Another death which has been reported, and which came as a great shock to his many friends, is that of Pte G. A. Johnston, son of Mr E. Johnston, Robertson. The deceased had previously been reported seriously ill. He was well known and highly esteemed in the Wingecarribee portion of the district.

(The Scrutineer and Berrima District Press, NSW – Saturday 3 March, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – 274TH LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES – DIED OF ILLNESS

G. A. Johnston, Robertson, 10/2/17 (Prev. rep. ser. ill)

(The Queenslander, Brisbane – Saturday 3 March, 1917)

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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 15th July, 1921, to Mr E. Johnston, Robertson, NSW advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte G. A. Johnston had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Pte G. A. Johnston does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*

Photo of Pte G. A. Johnston's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)