

**London Road Cemetery,
Salisbury, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5405 DRIVER

J. B. KINGSBURY

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

17TH SEPTEMBER, 1918

Beloved Son Of

John Biles & Sarah Kingsbury

Of Clermont, Queensland

John Biles KINGSBURY

John Biles Kingsbury was born at Clermont, Queensland on 25th November, 1893 to parents John Biles Kingsbury and Sarah Kingsbury (nee McCloskey).

John Biles Kingsbury was a 22 year old, single, Stockman from Clermont, Queensland when he enlisted at Rockhampton, Queensland on 5th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5405 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Kingsbury, of Clermont, Queensland.

Private John Biles Kingsbury was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 7th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 13th Depot Battalion on 12th February, 1916 & transferred again on 22nd March, 1916 to 17th Reinforcements of 9th Battalion.

Private John Biles Kingsbury embarked from Sydney, NSW on SS *Hawkes Bay* on 20th April, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements.

Private John Biles Kingsbury embarked from Alexandria on 28th (?) May, 1916 on *Tunisian* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th June, 1916.

Private John Biles Kingsbury was marched in with Reinforcements to 1st Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 7th June, 1916. He was marched out to 9th Battalion on 26th July, 1916 & was taken on strength of 9th Battalion in France on 29th July, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private John Biles Kingsbury was transferred from 9th Battalion to 5th Divisional Artillery in France on 6th November, 1916. He was taken on strength of 14th Field Artillery Brigade on 9th November, 1916 & mustered as Gunner. He was posted to 53rd Battery.

Gunner John Biles Kingsbury was mustered as Driver on 1st March, 1917 with 14th Field Artillery Brigade.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was wounded in action on 27th August, 1917. He was admitted to 42nd Field Ambulance on 27th August, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to right side then transferred to 10th Casualty Clearing Station the same day with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left arm. Driver Kingsbury was transferred to Ambulance Train on 28th August, 1917 & admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbeville on 29th August, 1917. He was transferred to 5th Convalescent Depot at Cayeux on 29th October, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to chest.

Mr J. B. Kingsbury, Clermont, Queensland, father of Driver John Biles Kingsbury, was advised by Base Records on 13th September, 1917 that Driver John Kingsbury had been wounded.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was deprived of 10 days' pay by Officer Commanding, No. 5 Convalescent Depot for Drunkenness on 5th November, 1917.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was transferred to Base Depot on 12th November, 1917 from No. 5 Convalescent Depot & joined A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France on 18th November, 1917.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was awarded deprivation of 2 days' pay by Commanding Officer, A.G.B.D. on 20th November, 1917 for being A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from 9 pm until 10 pm on 18th November, 1917.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was transferred from A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France on 20th November, 1917 to 5th Australian Divisional Artillery. He rejoined his Unit (14th F.A.B.) in the Field on 23rd November, 1917.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was on leave to England from 24th January, 1918 & rejoined 14th F.A.B. from leave on 15th February, 1918.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was sent to Hospital sick on 18th March, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Field Ambulance on 18th March, 1918 with Synor of right knee then transferred to 8th Australian Field Ambulance the same day. Driver Kingsbury was transferred to 5th A.D.R.S (Australian Divisional Rest Station) on 18th March, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 2nd Casualty Clearing Station on 19th March, 1918. He was then transferred & admitted to

55th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 21st March, 1918. Driver Kingsbury was transferred to England & embarked on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 24th March, 1918.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was admitted to Whipps Cross War Hospital at Leytonstone, England on 24th March, 1918 with Synovitis. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent on 8th April, 1918. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Synovitis Lt Knee – On March 18th 1918 while playing footb all twisted left knee, Synovitis. Very little swelling now. No disability.*" Driver Kingsbury was discharged from 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford to furlo from 11th April to 25th April, 1918 & was then to report to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

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. Convalescing was also completed in the counties of Wiltshire & Dorset.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from furlo on 26th April, 1918. The Hospital Admissions form from Classification Hut, A.A.M.C., Hurdcott recorded the following on first examination "*Slight swelling, No disability. B1B*" On examination on 1st May, 1918 – B1A1 (fit for light duty only – 4 weeks). Driver Kingsbury was examined again on 8th May, 1918 "*Knee aches a little at times. no fluid. B1A2*" (fit for overseas training camp in 3 – 4 weeks). Another examination occurred on 14th May, 1918 & he was medically classified as B1A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 – 3 weeks). Driver Kingsbury was examined on 20th May, 1918 "*No fluid in knee – fit. B1A4*" (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit.)

Mr J. B. Kingsbury, Clermont, Queensland, father of Driver John Biles Kingsbury, sent a telegram to Base Records on 13th May, 1918 with the message "*Received card from Leytonstone Military Hospital stating entry of Number five four nought five driver J Kingsbury kindly advise reason.*" Base Records replied on 14th May, 1918 stating that "*No recent report of casualty has been received here respecting your son, No. 5405 Driver J. B. Kingsbury 14th Field Artillery Brigade. It is pointed out however, that minor cases of indisposition not likely to develop seriously are not reported by cable but appear in Hospital Lists received by post at a later date. These mail reports are not transmitted to next-of-kin: it being reasonably assumed that the soldier will have communicated with his relatives in the meantime.*"

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot on 6th June, 1918 from No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire. He was medically classified as B1A4 (fit for Overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit). Driver Kingsbury was passed dentally fit on 3rd July, 1918.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade on 3rd July, 1918 from No. 1 Command Depot.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 26th July, 1918 from Overseas Training Brigade.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was sent sick to Sutton Veny Hospital, Wiltshire from R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) & admitted at 10.30 pm on 16th September, 1918.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury died at 4 pm on 17th September, 1918 at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Endocarditis, infective which was verified by a Post mortem was held at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny. He died 17 ½ hours after admission as reported on Hospital Admissions form. A Telegram from Commanding, Military Hospital, Sutton Veny to Administrative Headquarters advised that "*Gnr KINGSBURY, J. B. R.B.A.A. 4th Bty*" had died. His aunt – Miss Kingsbury, Wishford, Salisbury had been notified.

A death for John B. Kingsbury, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was buried on 21st September, 1918 in London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England – Plot number R. 10. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Driver John Biles Kingsbury - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. Brass Mounts. Deceased was buried with Full Military honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and a Band from R.B.A.A. Six of deceased's comrades acted as pallbearers. The funeral was attended by the following*

relations:- Mr L. B. Kingsbury, 1 Upleys Villas, Faverham, Kent. Miss N. Kingsbury, Wishford, Salisbury. Mr & Mrs Butter, 66 Broonsgerve Street, Birmingham, also a number of personal friends and comrades of deceased. A number of wreaths and floral tributes from friends and relatives were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in U.K. were represented at the funeral.

Mr J. B. Kingsbury, Clermont, father of the late Driver John Biles Kingsbury, wrote to Base Records on 6th January, 1919 offering his "sincerest thanks for your report of the death and burial of my son No 5405 Driver John Biles Kingsbury. It is a great comfort to his mother & myself to know where he is buried especially myself as I lived in the place named for many years before coming to Queensland and have still a few friends there yet."

Driver John Biles Kingsbury was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Kingsbury's father – Mr J. B. Kingsbury, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver John Biles Kingsbury – service number 5405, of 14th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of John Biles Kingsbury and Sarah Kingsbury, of Douglas St., Clermont, Queensland.

John Biles Kingsbury is remembered on the Clermont & District 1914 – 1918 List of Fallen, located at Remembrance Way, Anzac Park Section of Hoods Lagoon, Clermont, Queensland.



List of Fallen Clermont & District 1914 – 1918

(Photo from Queensland War Memorial Register – Dennis Stock)



Remembrance Way (Photo from Queensland War Memorial Register - Reg Norman)

Driver J. B. Kingsbury is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 18.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(50 pages of Driver John Biles Kingsbury'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



Driver John Biles Kingsbury



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

339th LIST

WOUNDED

Dvr. John Biles Kingsbury, Clermont

(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 September, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST NO. 440

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Dvr John Biles Kingsbury, Clermont, 17/9/18 (illness, prev. rep. w'ded)

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 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)

Driver J. B. Kingsbury does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

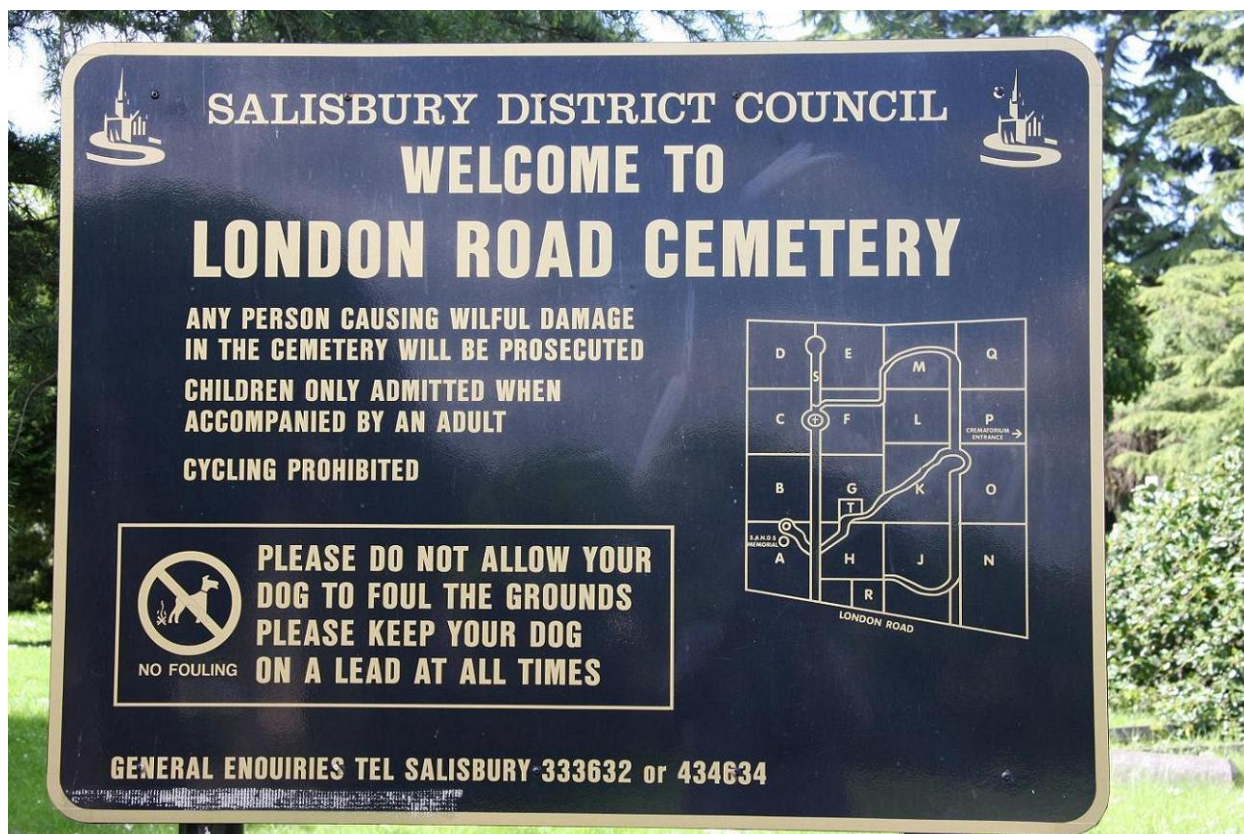
Beloved Son Of John Biles & Sarah Kingsbury Of Clermont, Queensland

London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England

London Road Cemetery, Salisbury contains 52 World War 1 burials & 52 World War 2 burials. There are 9 Australian WW1 War Graves & 1 WW2 Australian War Grave in this Cemetery.



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





(Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Driver J. B. Kingsbury's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)



(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)