

**Southern Cemetery,  
Manchester, Lancashire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**469 PRIVATE**

**J. CONNOR MACLEOD**

**15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**16TH JUNE, 1915 Age 21**

*Too Far Away They Grave To See  
But Not Too Far To Think Of Thee*

## John Connor MACLEOD

John Connor was born at Glenboig, New Monkland parish, Lanarkshire, Scotland in February, 1894 to parents Samuel & Maggie Connor (nee Millagin).

John Connor attended Coatbridge High School, Lanarkshire, Scotland & served for 1 year with Boy Scouts, Coatbridge. John Connor had served as an Apprentice with Glenboig C-op Society.

Maggie Connor, mother of John Connor, married David MacLeod.

According to information supplied by David MacLeod, Stepfather of John Connor MacLeod, John came to Australia when he was 16 ½ years old with his family.

John MacLeod was a 21 year old, single, Baker from Glenlong, Taunton Street, Mundora Estate, Toowoomba, Queensland when he enlisted on 12th October, 1914 with the 15th Infantry Battalion, "C" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 469 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – David McLeod of Glenlong, Taunton Street, Mundora Estate, Toowoomba, Queensland.

Private John MacLeod was written up on 27th November, 1914 while posted at Broadmeadows A.I.F. Camp. He was absent without leave from 9.30 am on 27th November, 1914 to 6.30 am on 28th November, 1914. Pte MacLeod was fined 5/. & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private John MacLeod was written up on 15th December, 1914 while posted at Broadmeadows A.I.F. Camp. He was "absent over pass" from 12 pm 14th December, 1914 until 5.25 pm on 15th December, 1914. Pte MacLeod was fined 10/. & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private John MacLeod embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 22nd December, 1914.

Private John MacLeod proceeded to join the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on Gallipoli Peninsula on 12th April, 1915 with 15th Battalion.

### 15th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 15th Battalion AIF was raised from late September, 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The Queensland and Tasmanian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked for overseas just before Christmas. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an A.I.F. division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt, it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. At the end of the month, a detachment from A Company reinforced the 14th Battalion's unsuccessful attack on Hill 60. The 15th Battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

*(Information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private John Connor MacLeod was wounded in action at Gallipoli with a gunshot wound to the forehead.

Private John Connor MacLeod was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, Lancashire, England on 20th May, 1915.

Private John Connor MacLeod died on 16th June, 1915 at 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, Lancashire, England from Enteric Fever.

A death for John McLeod, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of Prestwich, Lancashire, England.

Private John Connor Macleod was buried on 19th June, 1915 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number 399.

A letter was sent to Mr David MacLeod of Toowoomba, Queensland, dated 29th May which reads:

“With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No.469, Private J. C. MacLeod, 15th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice from Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, London, dated 21st February, 1919, as follows:-

- *“In the Southern Cemetery at Manchester there were buried in common graves nine deceased members of the Australian Imperial Force. The remains of these have now been exhumed from the common graves and in each case have been re-interred in separate single graves in virgin soil in a site specially set aside as an Australian plot. The work was successfully carried out last week under the supervision of a senior Non-commissioned Officer from these Headquarters, and the new graves have since been marked by the provision of the standard oak cross enamelled white with black lettering. Photographs of the new graves will be taken at an early date and sent to you for transmission to the next-of-kin.”*

Your son is now buried in Grave No. 217, Section Q.”

Private John Connor MacLeod was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private MacLeod’s stepfather – Mr David MacLeod, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Connor MacLeod – service number 469, aged 21, of 15th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of D. and the late Maggie Connor MacLeod. Born at Glenboig, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

According to information provided by David MacLeod, stepfather of the late Private John Connor Macleod, for the Roll of Honour – John Connor MacLeod was “*responsible for raising the pipe band for the 15th Battalion while training in Enoggera Camp, Brisbane*”. Mr David Macleod was presented with a “*set of silver mounted pipes from Sir Arthur Morgan.*”

Private J. C. MacLeod is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 76.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. C. Macleod is remembered on the Queensland Railways Toowoomba Employees Roll of Honour 1914 – 1919, which is located at Toowoomba Railway Station, Railway Street, Toowoomba, Queensland.

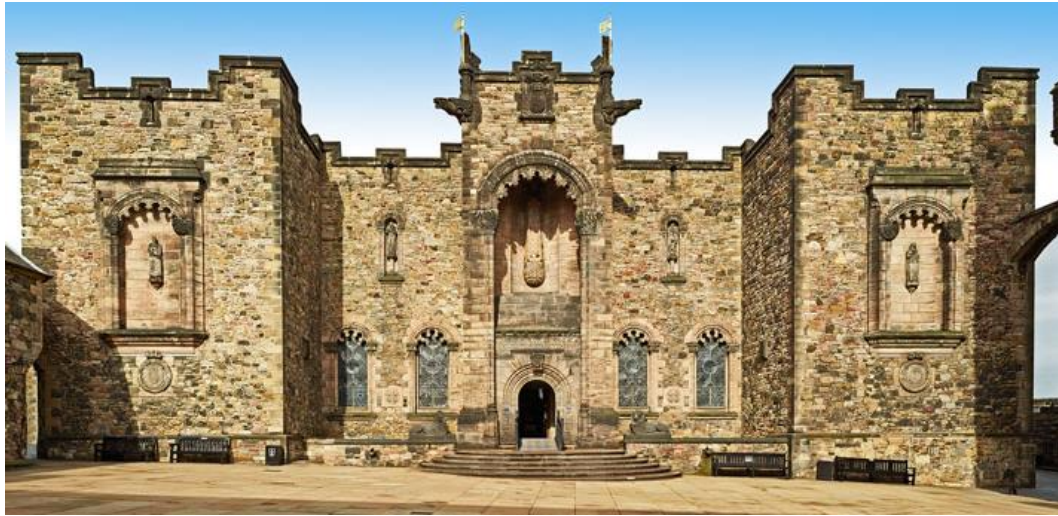


**Queensland Railways Toowoomba Employees Roll of Honour 1914 – 1919**

*(Photo from AWM – Places of Pride)*

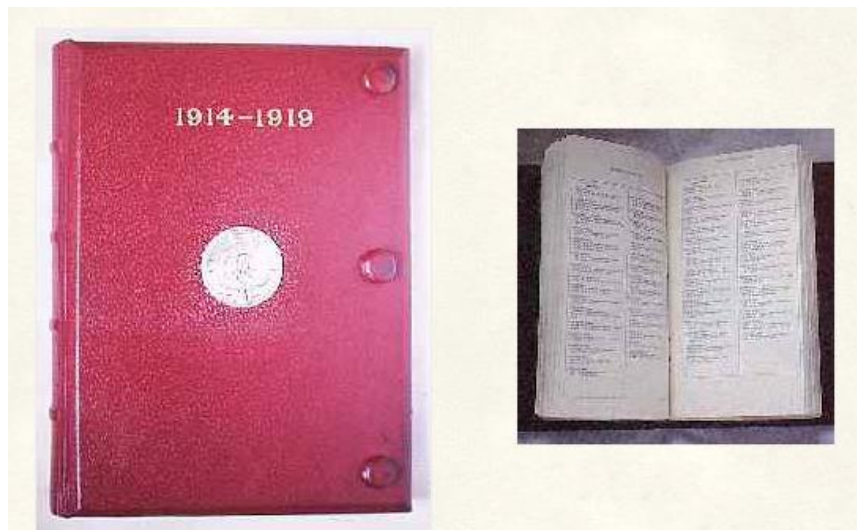
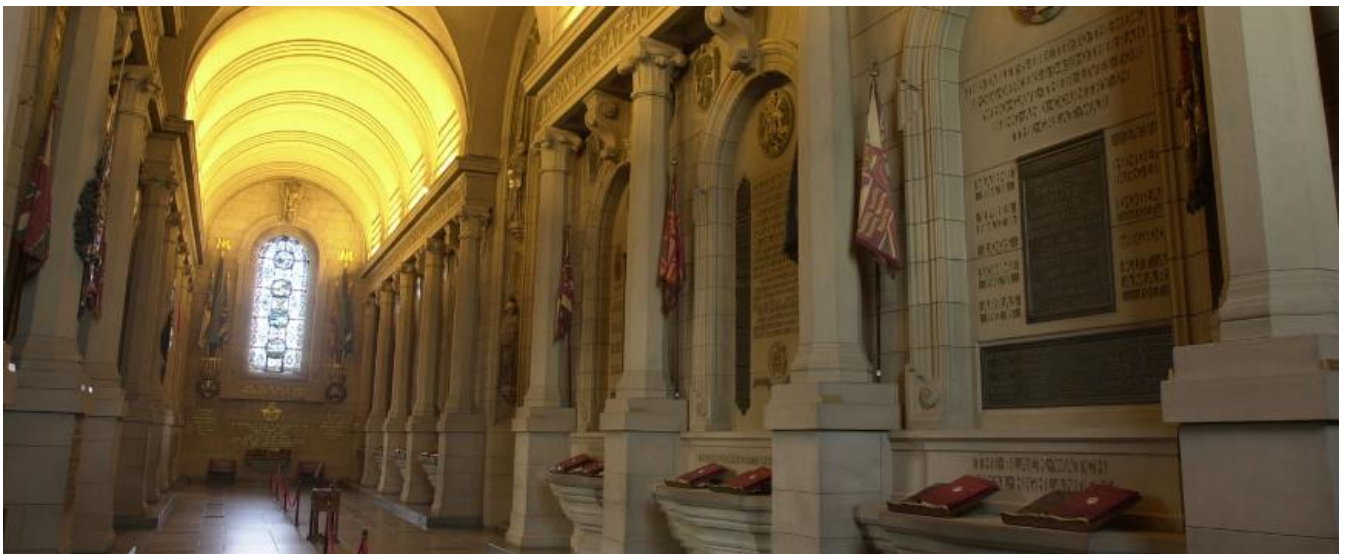


John Connor MacLeod is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



**The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.**

*(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)*



John Connor is remembered on the Glenboig and Annathill War Memorial, located at Inchneuk Road & Main Street, Glenboig, Coatbridge/North Lanarkshire, Scotland.



**Glenboig and Annathill War Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials Online – Glenboig & District Camera Club)



(38 pages of Private John Connor MacLeod'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*



**Pte. J. N. M'Leod,**  
Qld.—Died of Fever.

*(Note: It is believed that this is Pte J. C. Macleod, however the initials & surname are incorrect but "QLD – Died of Fever" are correct.*

*There is no "J. N. McLeod" listed on Australian War Memorial that died)*

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

##### **QUEENSLAND**

##### **DIED OF ENTERIC**

Pte J. MacLeod, 15th Btn., Toowoomba, Q. (Previously reported wounded).

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 3 July, 1915)*

---

#### **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)*

Private John Connor MacLeod does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Too Far Away Thy Grave To See But Not Too Far To Think Of Thee*

#### **Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England**

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



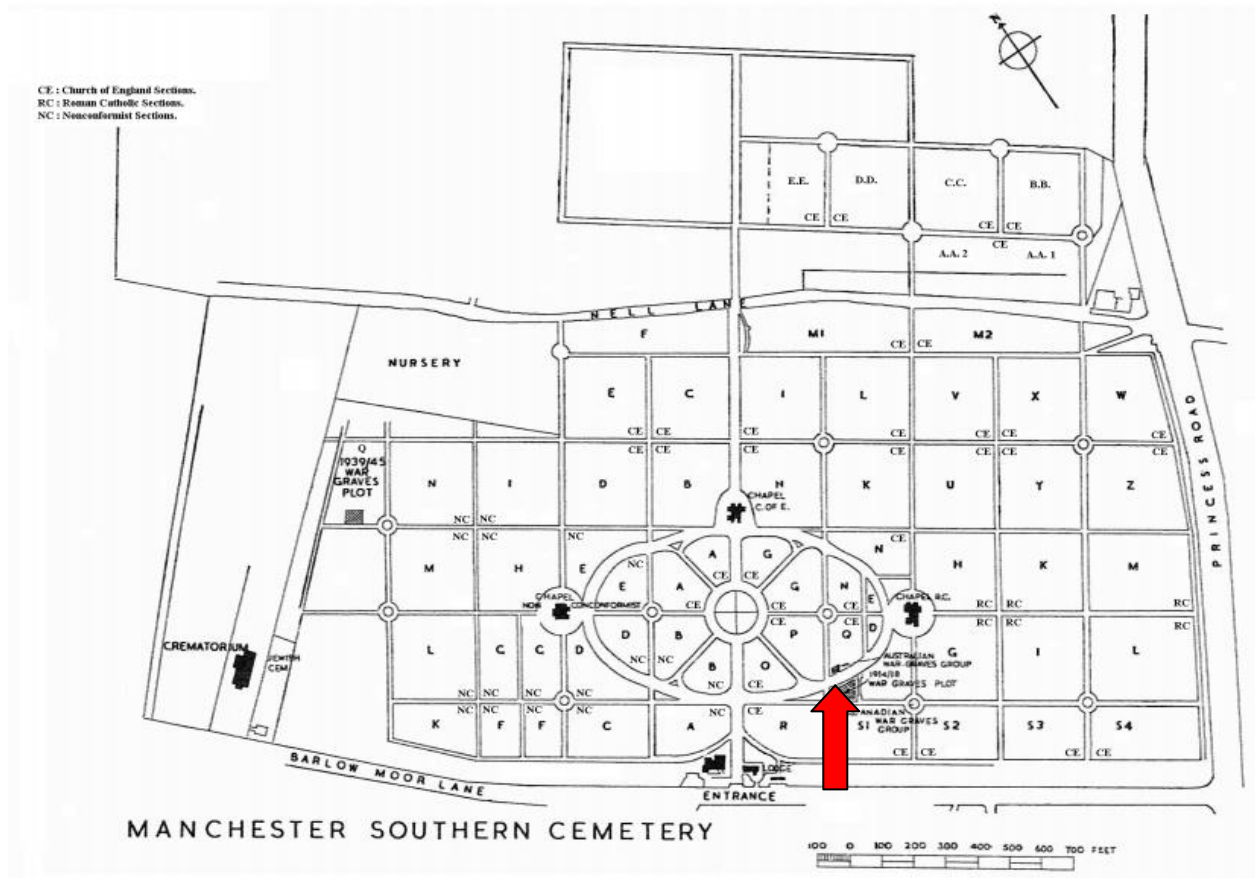


**Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1**

Photo of Private J. Connor MacLeod's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)*



Southern Cemetery, Manchester (Australian War Graves Group marked with arrow)

