

**Towcester Road Cemetery,
Northampton, Northamptonshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



926 PRIVATE

J. A. MAXWELL

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH SEPTEMBER, 1916

John Arthur MAXWELL

John Arthur Maxwell was born at Glenorchy, Tasmania.

[A possible birth for John Arthur Maxwell – born 10th August, 1872 to parents Robert Maxwell, Gardener & Mary Maxwell (nee Miller) from Glenorchy, Tasmania.]

John Arthur Maxwell stated he was a 34 year old, single, Labourer from Burnie, Tasmania when he enlisted at Ulverstone, Tasmania on 24th February, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 926 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr William A. Maxwell, of Burnie, Tasmania. John Maxwell signed his mark “x” on his Attestation Papers (could not write).

Private John Arthur Maxwell was written up while at Claremont, Tasmania on 26th April, 1915 – Absent without leave from 4pm on 25th April, 1915 to 7 am on 27th April, 1915. He forfeited 2 days’ pay & fined 10/-.

Private John Arthur Maxwell was posted to “C” Company of 26th Battalion for recruit training.

Private John Arthur Maxwell was written up while at Brisbane on 8th June, 1915 – Absent from Camp without leave – 1 day. Punishment awarded – Admonished.

Private John Arthur Maxwell embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 29th June, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, “C” Company. Pte Maxwell was written up for an Offence while on Transport A 60 - 1 am on 15th July, 1915 – “*Conduct prejudicial to order & discipline.*” Punishment awarded – Admonished.

Private John Arthur Maxwell embarked from Alexandria on 4th September, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli Peninsula.

Private John Arthur Maxwell disembarked at Alexandria on 9th January, 1916 from Mudros.

Private John Arthur Maxwell proceeded to join the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 15th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 21st March, 1916.

Private John Arthur Maxwell was wounded in action. He was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 29th August, 1916 then transferred to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Maxwell was transferred to Ambulance Train on 29th August, 1916 & admitted to No. 3 Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne on 1st September, 1916 with gunshot wounds to back. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* on 2nd September, 1916.

26th Battalion

The 26th Battalion was raised at Enoggera, Queensland, in April 1915 from recruits enlisted in Queensland and Tasmania, and formed part of the 7th Brigade. It left Australia in July, and, after training in Egypt, landed at Gallipoli on 12 September. At Gallipoli, the 26th played a purely defensive role and at various times was responsible for the defence of Courtney's and Steele's Posts, and Russell's Top. It withdrew from the peninsula on 12 December.

After another stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France as part of the 2nd Australian Division in March 1916. In concert with the 28th Battalion, the 26th mounted the first trench raid undertaken by Australian troops on the Western Front on 6 June. The Battalion fought in its first major battle around Pozieres between 28 July and 7 August. After a short spell in Belgium, the 2nd Division came south in October to attack again in the Somme Valley.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 26th Battalion

La Boselle Front Line – 29th August, 1916

Relieved by 25th Battalion and moved to reserve trenches at Sunken Road. Fatigue duty in trenches staying until 31/8/16. Lt. Col G. H. Ferguson VD, handed over command (tempy) to Major F. McDonnell on 28/8/16 at 11 am & was unfortunately wounded at 6.30 pm same day. Battalion moved into billets in Albert at 5 pm 31/8/16.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Arthur Maxwell was admitted to War Hospital, Duston, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England on 8th September, 1916 seriously ill with gunshot wounds to back. His condition was reported as serious on 9th September, 1916.

Private John Arthur Maxwell died on 10th September, 1916 at War Hospital, Duston, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England from wounds received in action in France - gunshot wounds to back.

A death for John A. Maxwell, aged 34, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.

Private John Arthur Maxwell was buried in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England – Plot number 448. 4. 17401 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Communications sent to Mr W. A. Maxwell, Burnie, Tasmania in March, 1917 were returned Unclaimed. The 6th Military District advised Base Records in September, 1920 that the next-of-kin for Pte Maxwell – Mr W. A. Maxwell was deceased & the new next-of-kin was registered as his sister – Mrs T. Hodgson, 11 Forrest Street, Spotswood, Victoria. Mrs T. Hodgson, sister of the late Pte Maxwell replied to a letter from Base Records on 26th September, 1920 stating that her parents were both deceased and Pte Maxwell's only brother – Mr W. A. Maxwell was also deceased. Mrs Hodgson stated she was the only surviving sister.

Private John Arthur Maxwell was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Maxwell's sister – Mrs T. Hodgson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1923).

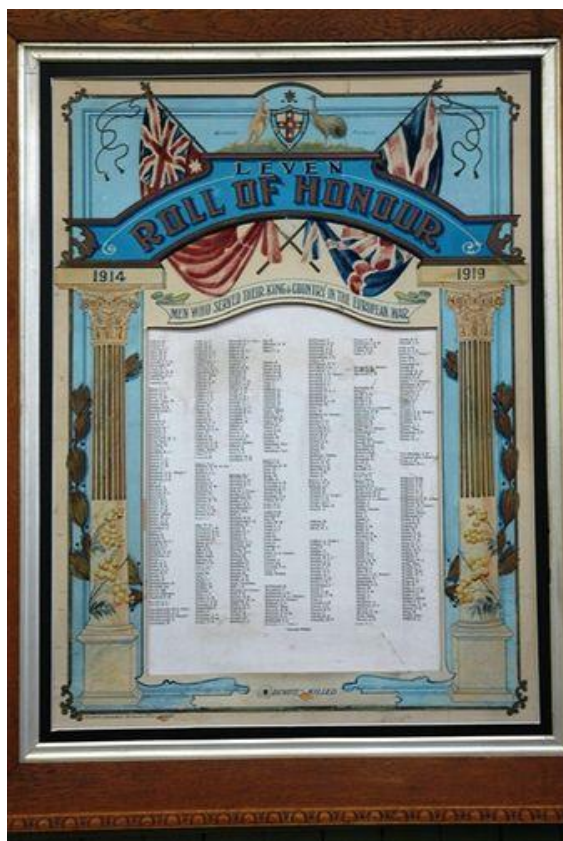
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Arthur Maxwell – service number 926, of 26th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. A. Maxwell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 108.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. A. Maxwell is remembered on the Leven Roll of Honour, located in the Ulverstone Museum, 50 Main Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania. It is a printed paper honour roll which commemorates 542 service personnel from the municipality who served in World War One.



Leven Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

J. A. Maxwell is remembered on the Ulverstone Roll of Honour, located in the Ulverstone RSL Club, 21 King Edward Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania. It is a framed paper honour roll which commemorates the 645 service personnel from the district who served in World War One.



Ulverstone Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

(60 pages of Pte John Arthur Maxwell'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LISTS 224 AND 225

SEVERELY WOUNDED AND SERIOUSLY ILL

TASMANIA – J. A. Maxwell, Burnie

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 September, 1916)

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

Captain C. A. Cox writes from Military Headquarters, Hobart:- Official notification has been received at this office that Private J. A. Maxwell, 26th Battalion, died on September 10, at War Hospital, Ormston, being previously reported ill, The next of kin of this soldier is stated to be Mr W. A. Maxwell, Burnie, but no trace of Mr W. A. Maxwell can be found, will you kindly give publicity to the foregoing so that he can communicate with District Headquarters, 6th Military District.

(*The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times*, Tasmania – 5 October, 1916) &

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 6 October, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

229TH AND 230TH CASUALTY LISTS

TASMANIAN LOSSES

DIED OF WOUNDS

J. A. Maxwell, Burnie, 19/9/16

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – 9 October, 1916)

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 J. A. Maxwell does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England

Northampton (Towcester Road) Cemetery contains 116 First World War burials and 17 from the Second World War, most of which form a combined war graves plot to the left of the chapel. The cemetery also contains five non-war service burials and three Czech war graves.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton

Photo of Private J. A. Maxwell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.



(Photo from Great War Forum - Biffo)



Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton (Photos from CWGC)

